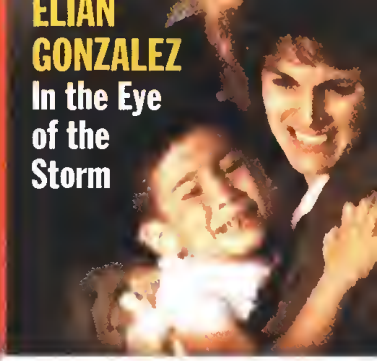
Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine
Maclean's
May 1, 2000 www.macleans.ca



ELIAN GONZALEZ
In the Eye of the Storm

How We Think



Canadian neuroscientist Steven Pinker opens a window on the human brain

By Robert Sheppard

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This Week

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ROGERS MEDIA

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Ph. S. J. Mueller

42 How we think

At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Montrealer Steven Pinker is challenging fellow neuroscientists with provocative theories about how evolution has changed the human brain. He and other researchers are probing the mysteries of learning, emotions and how the brain functions.

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When U.S. federal agents grabbed six-year-old Elián González from his Miami relatives in a pre-dawn raid, they opened one more chapter in the continuing battle for the young Cuban escapee's custody.

37 Inside the world of 'Mafiaboy'

Charges of computer hacking against a 15-year-old boy in suburban Montreal capped a two-month investigation of online vandalism against top commercial Web sites.



Phil Carpenter-Reuters



Peter Bregg-Maclean's

60 Making the grade

Riding the excitement of their first-ever playoff berth and the popularity of star Vince Carter, the Toronto Raptors have captured the attention of Canadian basketball fans

From the

Editor



R and D: A home for global leaders?

As more than 200 members of Canada's corporate elite gathered in Toronto for a gabfest, they got a sharp blast from Finance Minister Paul Martin. Unhappy that the CEOs had dismissed his last budget as timid and lacking in corporate tax cuts, Martin retorted: "The private sector must assume its responsibilities. The fact is, the private sector does not invest sufficiently in basic research."

The fact is, neither does government. With research and development spending by government of $2.9 billion, Canada has a poor record in the world. As a percentage of the economy, Canada's R and D spending is at the bottom of the industrialized Group of Seven nations, and also lags behind Sweden, Finland and Denmark. And that is despite the fact that R and D incentives are the most generous among the 29 nations of the OECD.

Why does it matter? Take Nortel Networks Corp. of Brampton, Ont. It once was Northern Telecom, and before that, Northern Electric. Today, it leads all Canadian companies in R and D spending (more than $4 billion last year). In its history, the company has spawned 82 different enterprises in three different generations, among them: JDS Fitel (now JDS Uniphase), Mitel, Newbridge Networks and Corel. Today those are the hub of Ottawa's own Silicon Valley. And it was Nortel that took a Canadian breakthrough patent in fibre optics to its first trials in 1977—allowing for today's high-speed transmittal of information by light.

And yet, by late 1999, only 28 of Nortel's top 400 executives were still based in Canada and CEO John Roth estimates that Nortel has moved 150 jobs that could have been done in Canada. "The understanding of high tech in Canada is extremely low," said Roth. "If the governments want to have more Nortels, they have to create the right environment for them." Jean Monty, CEO of Nortel's major shareholder, BCE Inc., agrees: "We are still trying to work from a Montreal base, but we're doing it out of convicoon as individuals."

But clearly, there are huge roadblocks even when Canadians do tackle the world. Paul Tellier, the CEO of Canadian National, says: "We have to operate on a continental basis." Yet his $6-billion railway merger deal with Burlington Northern Santa Fe has been blocked by the U.S. Surface Transporration Board. And Alcan Aluminium Ltd.'s three-way merger bid with Swiss and French companies has been nixed by protectionist forces of the European Commission (a two-way Canadian-Swiss merger will proceed). Canada's CEOs have been strangely silent on those two issues. Imagine the hue and cry if Ottawa blocked one of the serial takeovers of Canada's oilpatch or forest industry.

The Business Council on National Issues, which staged the CEO summit in Toronto in early April, submits that "Canadians have to come to terms with their historic suspicion of corporate size. Either we want Canada to be home to global leaders . . . or we do not." There is another statement that the BCNI members could not challenge: "The performance of Canada's private sector also leaves much to be desired in adapting to the New Economy." The speaker: BCNI's president, Thomas d'Aquino.

Robert Lewis

response@macleans.ca to comment on From the Editor

Newsroom Notes

Honouring the best



Dowsett Johnston

In her eight years directing *Maclean's* annual universities ranking, Assistant Managing Editor Ann Dowsett Johnston has earned recognition for the magazine and honours for her team of education writers and editors—including three gold National Magazine Awards. Dowsett Johnston and her staff are finalists for two more magazine awards this spring—for service journalism and best editorial package, both for the ninth universities ranking issue, published last November. Meanwhile, Senior Writer Jane O'Hara, a double winner last year (for investigative reporting plus the NMA President's Medal for the best magazine article of the year), is a finalist again. This time, it is for her investigative cover story "Trade secrets," on the commercial exploitation of the name of the late Haida artist Bill Reid. Sports Editor James Deacon is a finalist for "The Great One," his cover story on the retirement of Wayne Gretzky. Finally, Managing Editor Geoffrey Stevens and *Maclean's* staff are also nominated for best editorial package for "Canada's Century," our special issue last July 1. The winners will be announced on May 26.



The Mail

Touching a raw nerve

Journalists slam Canada's public health system and its staffers at their peril, as Barbara Amiel discovered with her April 17 column, "Why we need private medicine." The e-mail flood started immediately, followed quickly by a torrent of faxes and mailed letters. Their main complaints: Amiel's depiction of nurses as "increasingly loutish and indifferent," her contention that "our best doctors go to America," and her references to using her connections to help people get quicker medical attention. Amiel's mail usually splits roughly equally pro and con. This time, of the 130 letters received by the end of last week, only four were even vaguely supportive.

Apology in order

Barbara Amiel's attack on the nursing profession is infuriating. She attempts to place the blame for the indifference in Canada's health-care system squarely on the shoulders of its most dedicated and underappreciated professionals. Nursing is more than "night shifts," watching clients "smell and ooze and die." Nurses function in capacities far beyond that of the "saint." The hundreds of thousands of nurses practising in Canada have chosen the profession for a variety of reasons, but remain in it because they can visualize a future in which the health of Canadians is the best in the world. Amiel owes nurses across this country an apology.

Lisa Ann Magerman, RN, B Sc N, Toronto



Nurses at work: dedicated professionals

Why, with her wealth, power and influence, did Barbara Amiel not move her sister's father-in-law into the well-established private system in Britain (a system that has led to the deterioration of the public system she decries)? Why is she unaware that the "best doctors" do not stop working because their income is capped and that a public system does not smother physicians with paperwork, but a private system (à la the United States and managed care) certainly does. Monetary return to investors (her criterion of efficiency) does not apply to public facilities.

Dr Brian J Sproule, Edmonton

On behalf of the nurses of Canada, I wish to express our absolute outrage. Barbara Amiel's claim that the less capable in society are opting for a career in nursing because there is nowhere else for them to go is absurd and offensive. The decision to become a nurse today means meeting the requirements of gruelling and intellectually challenging academic and clinical training. Many of Canada's top researchers and policy-makers are nurses. Amiel managed only to confuse the debate over health-care delivery and reinforce stereotypes that have nothing to do with the reality of an autonomous profession with a long and proud tradition. Nurses are not saints or martyrs; they are professionals entrusted with the physical and psychological well-being of patients who are at their most vulnerable.

Lynda Kushnir Pakrul, RN, President, Canadian Nurses Association, Ottawa

Please publish Barbara Amiel's phone number so that all Canadians, not just a select few, can call her when they need strings pulled.

P. J. Straka, Calgary

Barbara Amiel has subjected us to another erratic rant. We could have been spared the self-absorbed ego strokes of "string pulling." Perhaps more appalling was the ludicrous broad-brushed attack on both the integrity and dignity of the nursing profession in the country.

Paul Currie, Halifax

If I sent you an opinion piece in which I asserted that Canadian journalists were ignorant and illiterate, and that all the good ones move to the United States; if I claimed that I knew for a fact that the press habitually panders to the influential by killing bad publicity or by slanting the news in their favour; if I stated that nowhere in the world has lower standards in journalism than Canada—would you publish it?

Edward Mullens, Toronto

As a general practitioner plying my trade in rural Ontario, I believe I am qualified to respond to Barbara Amiel's sermon from the mount of privilege. My experience indicates that many of our best doctors are quietly going about their work in small-town Canada. I would hazard a guess that many of those who have fled Stateside can be counted among our most avaricious, opportunistic, narcissistic and disaffected doctors. Amiel's observation that "intelligent and higher-quality people

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for more letters about Amiel

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So You Want To Buy A Car

Sarah Bohan writes about motorsports for *The Globe and Mail.*

By Sarah Bohan



It is that time. You realize you need to buy a car, and if you are like most Canadians, just the thought of going through the process fills you with fear and loathing. In particular, if you are a woman, you can add intimidation to the list. Suddenly a trip to the dentist for a root canal looks more appealing.

However, it does not have to be this way. You can ensure your vehicle buying experience is a positive one if you take the time to prepare and educate yourself about your purchase before you set foot in the showroom.

Yet, why should we have to do homework just to buy a car? Simple, after the purchase of a home, a car is the second largest acquisition most people make. We spend weeks, often months, money and considerable effort looking for our ideal habitat. It makes sense to invest more than a weekend searching for the right vehicle to meet our needs, fit our budget and do it all with style.

If you buy smart this time around, it will be easier the next time; in addition, you will achieve greater satisfaction with your acquisition.

Everyone remembers the thrill of driving away his or her first car, whether new or pre-owned. The feelings of elation and freedom are difficult to replicate.

If you are about to embark on your maiden vehicle purchase, you should savour every moment and the following tips will help you get there.

Alternatively, if you are replacing an existing vehicle, you probably have a preferred make and model. Moreover, it was probably about eight years or so since you last went through the buying cycle, so you may benefit from a refresher.

Before you head out to the dealership:

- **Examine your lifestyle to assess your needs and wants, which differ from individual to individual.** To differentiate between a need and a want, consider: a need is requirement, an option or an item that is imperative for you to maximize the functionality of your car. For example, if you constantly carry passengers in the back seat, then four doors become a need. A want is something that you desire or may be a luxury item, like extra bass speakers for your car's audio system — probably not imperative for most drivers. One should never sacrifice something we need to get something we want. You will not be very popular if you return home in a sports coupe as the family's main vehicle should you have another adult, three kids and a lot of cargo to transport daily.
- **Estimate the number of kilomstres you will drive annually.** Mainly city or highway? A lot of kilometres will make fuel economy a concern. Do you prefer automatic or manual transmission? Selecting a manual transmission may save you around $1,000, depending on the make, on the list price of a new car. Alternatively, an automatic transmission, adds to the resale value.
- **Determine a price range for a new and used car.** There are excellent one- and two-year-old vehicles out there, many with the manufacturer's warranty. Why not allow someone else to pay the depreciation for the first two years of a new vehicle? The price of a previously enjoyed car may permit you to afford a more luxurious vehicle.
- **Give some thought as to whether you plan to pay cash, finance or lease.** If you are not paying cash, talk to a personal banking officer at your branch and investigate how much of a loan the bank would extend you. Compare that to the financing offered by most dealers through the chartered banks and the manufacturers' finance companies. The rates and terms available through the dealer are often more competitive than those you may receive from your own bank because of manufacturers' rebates or discounted interest rates through the manufacturers' finance company. A number

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of the chartered banks have special rates and terms through their automotive finance centres which have greater latitude than their branches. Some large dealerships have their own finance companies. Be clear which finance source is offering what deal. Dealers practise full disclosure and should explain the differences in the finance contracts between the chartered banks, manufacturers' and dealers' finance companies.

Consult a financial adviser to examine your situation to help determine what is best for you. In general, paying cash or bank financing works if your desire is to own the vehicle while paying the least amount of money in interest, or if you drive many kilometres annually.

Leasing is increasing in popularity every year and may be attractive to you because it allows you to drive "more car" with a lower monthly payment relative to a loan of the same term. A short-term new-car lease (two years or less) offers a predictable monthly car expense based on the expectation of no repair costs due to the manufacturer's new car warranty.

Remember that you are responsible for regular scheduled maintenance like oil changes and repairs to body work, regardless of a lease or a purchase.

Do the Obvious:

- Read up on the current models via automotive books and magazines and the Internet. Some suggestions are CAA Car Buyers and the Consumer Reports Annual Auto Issue. Most manufacturers have comprehensive Web sites with product information that allows you to select a model and equip it with options to determine a manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) before you step into a dealership.
- Make a short list of two to three models with the options that fit your needs, wants and budget. Prioritize the options just in case you have to cut one.

With your research done, visit the automotive retailers of the vehicles on your short list.

At the dealership:

- Test drive the model equipped with the options that you mean to buy. As a courtesy, make the salesperson aware that you are just shopping at this time.

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Impreza World Rally Manufacturers Champion 1995, 1996, 1997

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• Bring a buddy along for the ride. Take a small notebook and record his or her comments as well as your own first impressions of the car, the salesman and the dealer. Test the car on the highway. Get a feel for the handling, acceleration and braking. Are their blind spots that prevent you from making safe lane changes? Turn the radio off and note the amount of rattle, wind and road noise — can you talk to your friend without yelling? A friend is especially helpful if you have a weakness for impulse purchases or for spending more than you can afford. Remember to buy the friend lunch or dinner as thanks for accompanying you.

• If you liked the car, ask for a price quote on a work sheet with all options including freight; pre-delivery inspection (PDI); all applicable taxes such as gas, tire, air, etc.; administration or documentation fees plus any other charges; GST and PST. If you have a trade-in, you may be able to get an estimate as well. This is not the final, discounted price, just a quote.

• Take the information home and compare models, using your impressions of the vehicle, the dealership and the prices from the worksheets. Ensure you are comparing apples to apples.

• Now that you have a choice, do you want to negotiate the price of your purchase or not? If not, then select a retailer that offers "One Price Selling" or "No Surprise Pricing" which are non-negotiable prices posted on each vehicle that are discounted from the MSRP based on local market conditions.

• If you want to negotiate, return to the salesperson whom you felt the most comfortable with at the dealership that retails your first choice of car. Let him or her know that you are ready to buy. Bring along a cheque, cash or credit/debit card to make the deposit on the vehicle you would like to buy.

• Negotiate, it can be very rewarding. In addition to the car, you can negotiate on extended warranties, after-market car alarms, and stereos and sometimes on finance or lease rates.

More Tips:

1. Shop around, but do not agree to apply for financing through a dealer until you are ready to buy. Once you want to proceed with your purchase, limit the credit application to three financial institutions. If you apply for financing at every dealership you visit, the finance companies may interpret you as a credit seeker. Once you have credit approval with a chartered bank or manufacturer's finance company and you cancel the deal with that automotive retailer, your finance approval should be valid for approximately 30 days and usable with another dealer. Some large dealers have their own finance companies, and their car loan or lease credit approvals may be non-transferable.

2. If you still need another opinion before you sign the contract, make sure you write on the Bill of Sale, "subject to this source's approval."

3. The deposit is kept by the seller to hold the car only when you reach an agreement. If you get cold feet the next day after making the deal, most dealers will completely refund the deposit to cancel the deal unless they incurred costs such as transporting the vehicle from far away.

4. Remember when buying a pre-owned vehicle that they are unique. Dealers know there is not another car like it, so try not to fall in love with any one car. Be prepared to walk if the deal is not to your terms.

5. Consumers often receive better deals at the end of the month or year. Salespeople and managers may accept an offer that they would not normally take so that they can reach sales and revenue targets. Usually the deeply discounted price is given on the condition that you can take delivery of the car before the month ends.

So buying a car is not predestined to be an exercise in frustration. For the shopper, information is the key to success in purchasing a cost-effective and stylish automobile.

Even with the explosion of the Internet and e-commerce, the traditional direct buying process is not ready to go the way of the dinosaur yet. We still need to touch, see, smell and hear our vehicle before taking ownership. For consumers the safest and most professional car sources are the recognized dealers of the manufacturers with reputations and millions of dollars at stake. These trained professionals' primary goal is to give you, the client, what you want, so that you in turn will give them what they want. And that is you, a satisfied customer who will return time after time with family and friends.

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Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine

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naturally choose less strenuous work" is a vicious insult to the legions of dedicated nursing personnel. The problem is not that the elderly are at the bottom, but that the smug, self-serving business and political elite and their accessories, such as Amiel, are at the top.

Dr. Jan Raczycki, Clinton, Ont.

Barbara Amiel's rant on Canada's health care system makes one good point, albeit unintentionally. It is precisely because we do not wish to be reliant on string pulling to get access to private care that Canadians want an adequately funded public system.

Jack Glenn, Calgary

How I tire of the affluent touting private medicine.

W. Jon McCormick, Lone Butte, B.C.

If I follow her argument to its unspoken conclusion, what she appears to be suggesting is that since public health care is presently in such a deplorable state, what we need is private health care so that at least the very wealthy may have access to a superior system. Gee, that should help all of the poor, elderly people who she has suddenly developed a sympathy for.

Angeles Espinaco-Virseda, Edmonton

I love Barbara Amiel's essays and offer plaudits for what she said about the Canadian health-care system. But what do we do about it? There is no consensus, no one to follow, and no time to waste in dithering. Concrete suggestions would be invaluable.

Mamie Pomeroy, Ottawa

You are getting sleepy

We all know that people lose sleep during the early years of parenting, that teens are always tired and that there are sleepy drivers on the highways ("Are you getting enough sleep?" Cover, April 17). We may not be so aware of the crippling impact that those things have on everyone, because we look at the world very differently through tired eyes. I'm always concerned, for example, when I hear that a collective agreement has been hammered out at 3 in the morning. Are both sides happy, or was it an endurance contest and control game? What about the increasing numbers of rotating shift workers, long-shift workers (including single parents) and families with two shift-working parents? People need to become more ruthless about getting quality sleep, and the corporate/government sectors need to look at the real costs of having tired workers.

Erik Little, Markham, Ont.

I was grateful to see such a prominent Canadian magazine drawing attention to the problem of sleep deprivation. Unfortunately, the majority of those affected have become accustomed to functioning with less sleep, and as they have no means of assessing their degree of impairment, the consequences will continue to mount. Adding to this problem is the fact that approximately four million Canadians have a sleep disorder, yet 90 per cent remain undiagnosed. Sleep/Wake Disorders Canada (1-800-387-9253) is the only national voluntary health organization that provides information, education and support on sleep and its disorders.

Betty Anne Richard, Vice-President, Sleep/Wake Disorders Canada, Amherstburg, Ont.

Winston Churchill was misplaced among your pantheon of famous persons requiring little sleep to get through the day. Although he frequently stayed up long into the night, Churchill regularly undressed and retired to bed after lunch for a sound sleep, and he was definitely not an early riser by habit the following morning.

Bruce E. Macdonald, Ottawa

Sudan tragedy

Your article powerfully portrays the tragedy of Sudan ("Freeing the slaves of Sudan," Cover, April 10). Aid groups

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who engaged Talisman Energy in dialogue, however, aimed for more than mitigation. Oil revenue should not fuel war. And independent human-rights monitoring can ensure Talisman lives up to the international code of ethics it officially adopted last December. The code requires companies not to be complicit in human-rights abuses. Shareholders of Talisman should ask some hard questions at their May 3 meeting about the documented, forced and violent displacements of civilians by the same army that guards Talisman oilfields and how Talisman understands the meaning of complicity.

Dave Toycen, President, World Vision Canada, Mississauga, Ont.

Astronautical grant

Regarding your Passages item about Roberta Bondar and her photography book and exhibit *Passionate Vision—Discovering Canada's National Parks* (April 17), Bondar applied for a Millennium Fund grant for her project to photograph all of Canada's national parks as a record and legacy of our country's protected areas, as viewed from space and on land. The fund required the recipient to raise $2 privately for every $1 of the fund. To date, the Passionate Vision project has received $481,000 from the Millennium Fund, and the rest from Bondar and the private sector. Besides her PhD and medical degree, Bondar studied nature photography at the prestigious Brooks Institute in Santa Barbara, Calif. As well, all astronauts are trained to use the Hasselblad camera.

Christine Yenkou, member of Passionate Vision Project, Toronto

Rich 'jokers'

Kudos to Anthony Wilson-Smith for his brilliant take on "Our *Monty Python* CEOs" (April 17). I couldn't believe my ears when I heard these whining multimillionaires, along with their chief whiner, Thomas d'Aquino of the Business Council on National Issues, demand, yet again, that the feds cut income taxes for high earners. Did these poor souls have even a smidgen of an idea that the rest of us are calling, not for tax cuts, but for reinvestment in health care, education and the social safety net? Until these jokers can come down off their high horses and explain, for example, the necessity for CEOs to earn 200 times the wage of their workers, we shall continue to take their every utterance with a very large grain of salt.

Maggie Laidlaw, Guelph, Ont.

Gun registration

As an avid multidiscipline competitive shooter, I read with much interest the article "Gun smarts" (Canada and the World, April 17). I find it telling though that your article states: "Canada's level of gun violence is so low that law enforcement agencies have trouble getting the funds to buy his equipment—known as IBIS, for Integrated Ballistics Identification System" (a computerized system of connecting bullets to the guns they were shot from, with a price tag of $874,000 per unit). However, the federal government is willing to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on a system for registering all the firearms in Canada, which I and many others argue will have little effect on the already low level of gun violence in this country. This reminds me of a quote by the American editor H. L. Mencken: "The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed and hence clamorous to be led to safety by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary."

Massimo Novati, Oromocto, N.B.

A happy reader

Keep up the good work. I just stopped my subscription to *Time* magazine after 20 years. Every week, *Maclean's* is full of interesting articles and is always getting better. American magazines by contrast keep getting more and more lightweight.

Tina Naftali, Montreal



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Editorial Update

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Given today's "24 hours, seven days-a-week" corporate culture, most people are working longer and harder at their jobs. Considering the extra workplace demands, it's more important than ever that employees enjoy what they do and who they work for.

How satisfied are Canadians with their jobs? That's the question that Maclean's sets out to answer with its second annual Best & Worst Jobs survey. This exclusive report, based on a poll of 2,000 Canadian workers, managers and senior executives by one of North America's leading consulting firms, contrasts job satisfaction levels province by province and compares them to the United States. Find out

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As well, the reports looks at the extravagant perks — free massages, complimentary health club memberships, and cash incentives, and the like — that some firms are using to attract and retain highly skilled and specialized workers.

Maclean's Best & Worst Jobs survey, coming to newsstands in May.

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Edited by Anthony Wilson-Smith
With Shanda Deziel

Over and Under Achievers

Stockwell Day's boogie nights!!

'Mafiaboy' busted!! Air Canada mistrusted!! Medicare users disgusted!! And Stockwell Day, that's a doobie, brother



- **NHL playoffs:** Curtis Joseph bowls over ref; no suspension. Alexei Zhitnik uses stick like scythe; gets *one* game. Say this for Gary Bettman: ever think anyone could make ya miss John Ziegler?
- **Queen's Park-Ottawa ad wars:** *Why Government Is Bad for Your Health, Reason No. 54,367.* Two sides spend millions on ads bickering with each other. Their theme: why there's not enough money for health care.
- **TD Bank:** Discount brokerage arm will give free portable computers to online investors—only in United States. Key advantage: instead of waiting hours to trade by phone, now they can get busy signal on-screen.
- **"Mafiaboy":** Teenage Montrealer busted on charge he hacked into CNN Web site and paralyzed operations. Key error: if he'd chosen a broketage site, nobody would have realized.
- **Air Canada:** Complaints about lost luggage, bumped seats and bad service mount after Canadian Airlines takeover. Consolation: if pilots go ahead with possible strike, those problems vanish.
- **Stockwell Day:** Confesses he smoked dope as a kid. Next Preston Manning says funny voice comes from helium.

Pea-plant plans for profit

Farmers are planning big strategic changes to what they intend to plant this year. Lower canola and flaxseed prices mean plantings of both are expected to decrease. But the durum wheat crop will increase because a drought in Mediterranean growing areas and less planting in the United States should push up prices. A growing hog industry will mean a jump in the growth of grain corn for feed, and an expanding livestock industry will push up barley planting. Field peas, used in pet food, will rise sharply. Statistics Canada shows likely changes between this year and last.



Source: Statistics Canada

Patricia Treble

Over Again

In loo of Ernest

Michael Palin, 56, was a star of the hugely popular 1970s comedy series Monty Python's Flying Circus. *In* Michael Palin's Hemingway Adventure*—a book (McArthur & Co.) and four-part TV series to be broadcast on PBS starting in May—he retraces the travels of Ernest Hemingway. Among other things, Palin re-enacted Hemingway's Second World War tank ride along a Paris boulevard, took bullfighting lessons in Spain—and managed a too realistic re-creation of a key moment in the life of the notoriously accident-prone Hemingway. Palin described the incident to Associate Editor Brian Bethune.*



Palin, duck!

"In 1928, Hemingway, who was in his Paris bathroom in the dark, pulled what he thought was the toilet chain. It was actually a cord that brought the skylight crashing into his forehead, cutting him for nine stitches. The pain and the blood—according to Hemingway biographer Michael Reynolds—caused him to relive suppressed memories of his wounding in Italy in 1918. As a result, he immediately began to write *A Farewell to Arms*. We tried to re-create that loo. We had a production assistant running all over Paris trying to find a similar bathroom. But no go. So we built one in London with a device to lower the skylight. The thing failed and clipped me in the head for 13 stitches. I got four more than Hemingway, but so far no great novel has leaped out of me."



Electric City: echoes of the past unplugged

Overview

History rewired

A ghost town rises live and online

After nearly a century, human voices again ring through the woods of Nova Scotia's Digby County, where Electric City, a turn-of-the-century settlement once bustled with life. Anxious to escape the shadows of war in Europe, Alsatian aristocrat **Emile Stehelin** and his family had all settled in the province by 1895. Starting that year, the habitation they hacked out of the wilderness boasted a sawmill, teahouse, chapel, casino, its own wooden railroad and electric lights, which lit the area 30 years before electricity arrived elsewhere nearby. Eventually, all Stehelin's children married and left the compound. In 1910, when his wife died, he ceremonially released a flock of white pigeons and moved to Weymouth, 28 km away. In 1950, the settlement's remains were torn down.

But now, the saga of Electric City is being told again. Last year, the site's owner, J. D. Irving Ltd., cut new roads into the estate, built walking trails and brought in a landscape architect to design a park with signs showing where the buildings stood. Anyone wishing to experience Electric City without making the trip can log onto an interactive, bilingual Web site built with help of classes from Grades 5 and 6 at Weymouth Consolidated School.

(Web addresses *www.wvda.com* or *collections.ic.gc.ca/electric*)

John DeMont

Overbites

"We all need to do our utmost to assist the Iraqi people."
—Foreign Affairs Minister **Lloyd Axworthy** explains plans to give $1 million in humanitarian aid to Iraq

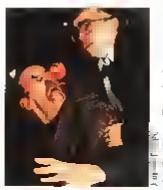
"The people of Iraq do not need help from those who have oppressed them."
—An Iraqi information ministry spokesman rejects the offer

"The aid is not going to the Iraqi government . . . so they have nothing to do with it."
—Axworthy says he'll go ahead with aid despite Iraqi protests

"We're part of the continental United States."
—Defence Minister **Art Eggleton** explains why Canada may join American anti-ballistic missile program

X Marks a Movie Site

When **David Duchovny**'s homesickness sent *The X-Files* packing from Vancouver to Los Angeles two years ago, crew members left behind joined other local productions. But many *X-Files* alumni have reunited every six weeks to donate their efforts to a short film called *Tilt*. The movie, a collaboration of ex-*X-Files* production assistants **Patrick Stark, Lance Peverley** and transport driver **Barry Shelton**—is a modern retelling of *Don Quixote* from Sancho Panza's point of view, set in Vancouver. Now almost complete, it has a revolving crew of more than 200 people, most of whom worked for *The X-Files*. Because everyone donates time and equipment, Stark says, "it looks like a half-million-dollar production, but cost a fraction of that." **Tom Braidwood**, who played Melvin Frohike, a character on *The X-Files*, stars. Although Braidwood is a producer-director on *Da Vinci's Inquest* and just reprised his *X-Files* role for the pilot of a spinoff, he made time. "When you've worked together five years," says Braidwood, "you get pretty close." *Tilt* opens at the Vancouver film festival this fall.



Braidwood (right)

S.D.

The Play's (kinda) the Thing



"Pluck out his eyes," shout high-schoolers from Toronto's Riverdale Collegiate. "Hang him instantly." Youthful trash-talk? Not this time: teens, with a dozen Canadian actors, are staging a scene from Shakespeare's *King Lear* to mark the Bard's 436th birthday last week. As part of *On Board with the Bard*—a government-funded program—TV stars such as **Paul Gross, Scott Speedman** and **Sonja Smits** give seminars at Ontario high schools aimed at teaching youth that Shakespeare is cooler than they think. "This sort of thing could even be done in primary schools," says Smits, star of Global TV's *Traders*, "before kids have preconceptions about Shakespeare." Students last week most enjoyed substituting customary insults with some Bard expletives. "Thou fobbing, fen-sucked ratsbane" proved a worthy replacement for "you smelly, unwashed scrub." A curse by any other name.

S.D.

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PASSAGES



Mike Slobaj/Toronto Star

Died: Louis Applebaum, 82, was a composer and administrator much-beloved in the Canadian arts community. He began studying music at age 10, and started composing in the early 1940s. His score for the 1945 Hollywood movie *The Story of G. I. Joe* was nominated for an Oscar. He created hundreds of scores for film, television and stage productions, including the Stratford Festival. His last major work, written with **Mavor Moore**, was *Erewhom*, performed by Pacific Opera Victoria in February. With **Jacques Hebert**, he co-chaired a review of cultural policy in the early 1980s. He died in Toronto of cancer.

Died: Dr **Donald Cherry**, 78, took care of the horses in the RCMP's musical ride for more than 50 years. The Ottawa-born veterinarian began to practise in 1945 and was believed to be the longest-serving vet in Ontario. Recently, he vaccinated 36 musical ride horses who leave this week for a tour of Switzerland and England. One is called Dr. Don in his honour. He died of cancer in Osgood, Ont.

Died: Most Rev. **Thomas Lobsinger**, 72, Bishop of Whitehorse, oversaw 7,900 Roman Catholics across the Yukon and northern British Columbia in a diocese spanning more than 480,000 square kilometres. Born in Ayton, Ont., he joined the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1946. He was ordained in 1954. An avid outdoorsman and licensed pilot known as "Bishop Tom" and "the Flying Missionary," he spent much of his life in rural communities and was an avid fisherman. He and a fellow oblate, Brother **Hubert (Hoby) Spruyt**, were killed after the small plane the bishop was piloting crashed in a frozen lake 70 km north of Whitehorse.

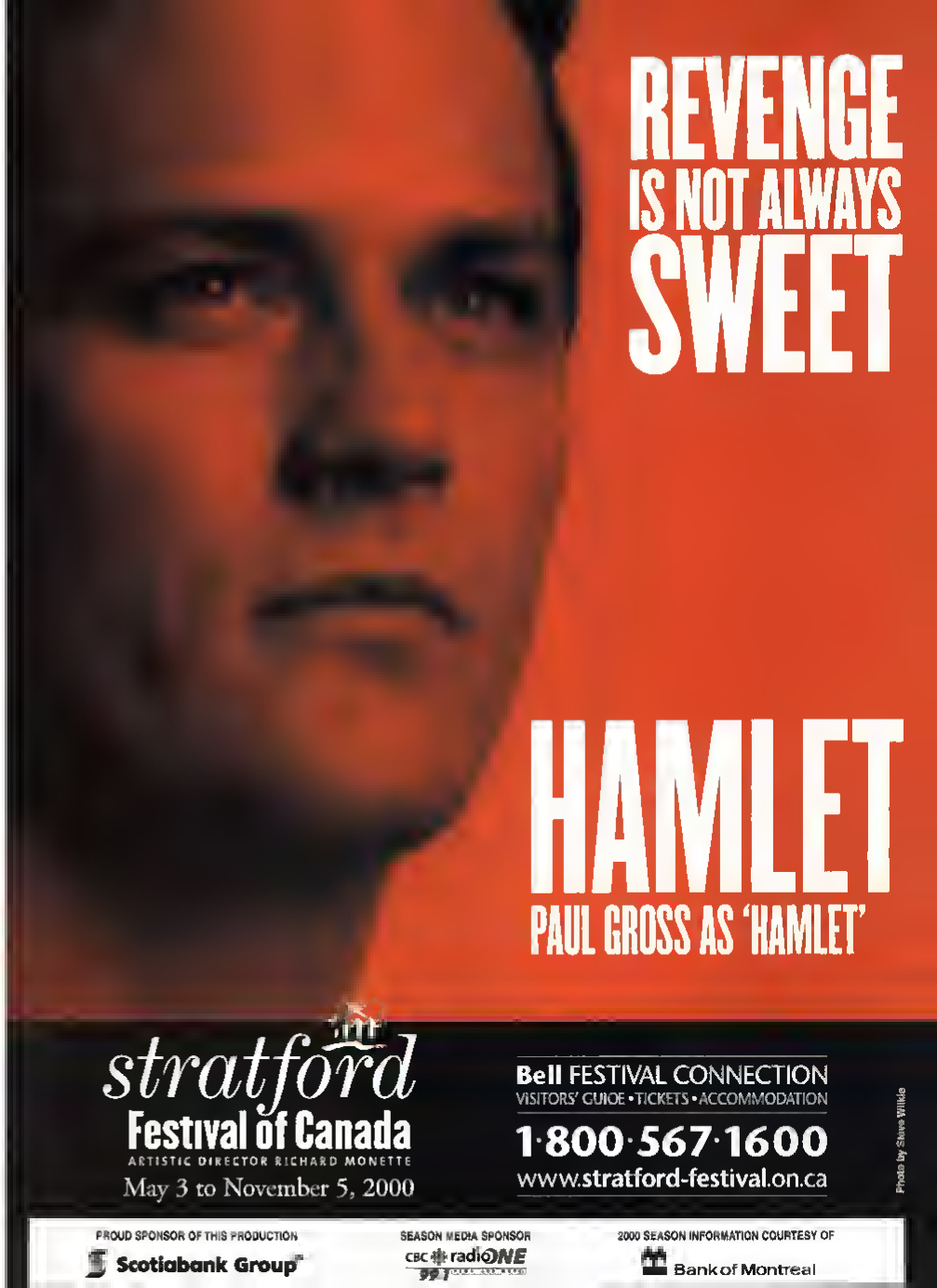
Died: Yvonne Chaîné, 86, was the mother of **Aline** who, in 1957, married a young law student and campus Liberal who went on to become prime minister, **Jean Chrétien**'s mother-in-law died at a seniors' home in Shawinigan, Que., after a lengthy illness.

Awarded: For the second time in four years, writer and broadcaster **Arthur Black**, 56, has won the Stephen Leacock Memorial Medal for Humour. Black, host of CBC Radio's *Basic Black*, won for his book *Black Tie and Tales*. The award includes a $6,000 cash prize; previous winners include **Mordecai Richler** and **Pierre Berton**.

Appointed: Canadian journalists **Michael Cooke**, 47, and **John Cruickshank**, 47, were named, respectively, editor-in-chief and vice-president (editorial) of the *Chicago Sun-Times*, one of the 10 largest newspapers in the United States. British-born Cooke, is editor of *The Province* in Vancouver. Cruickshank, editor-in-chief of *The Vancouver Sun*, is married to *Maclean's* Vancouver Bureau Chief **Jennifer Hunter**. Cruickshank will be replaced by *Ottawa Citizen* editor-in-chief **Neil Reynolds**, 59, while the new *Province* editor is **Vivienne Sosnowski**, executive editor of the *National Post*. All newspapers are owned by Southam Inc. or Hollinger International Inc.—companies controlled by **Conrad Black**.

Appointed: **Kevin Benson**, 53, former chief executive of Canadian Airlines, was named new president of the Vancouver-based Jim Pattison Group. Benson left the airline in February in the wake of the takeover by Air Canada. His new employer, owned by the West Coast entrepreneur of the same name, operates a wide range of businesses, and had sales of $4.4 billion in 1998.

Death confirmed: Two scientists using DNA testing confirmed that a disease-riddled boy who died in a French prison cell in 1795 was **King Louis XVII**, the 10-year-old son of **King Louis XVI** and **Marie Antoinette**. The finding—using DNA from a lock of Marie Antoinette's hair and the boy's heart—ends more than 200 years of mystery surrounding his identity.




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Anthony Wilson-Smith

Don't sweat the small stuff

In the early 1990s, when the Soviet Union was crumbling, Jean Chrétien's advisers decided that the new Liberal leader needed to know more about what was going on. They brought in a Canadian Sovietologist who was also a devout Liberal. He spent hours memorizing minutiae about the Soviet Union in order to be able to respond to any Chrétien query. The meeting ended early. Later, the Sovietologist met a friend who asked how the encounter had gone. Chrétien, came the sad response, had asked only one question. "He wanted to know if there were any good anecdotes he could use in his speeches."

For those who think the Prime Minister shallow, ill-informed and lazy, there's a perfect illustration. But also consider an anecdote Chrétien sometimes told from firsthand experience. As a cabinet minister in the 1970s, he was invited to visit a part of Siberia normally closed to foreigners. One night, he stopped in the bar of his hotel and discovered a local band playing Beatles music. That was the moment, Chrétien said, "at which it became clear that the Soviet Union would eventually fail, because the government could no longer keep the outside world from people."

Ask any old Moscow hand, and they'll get his point right away: a key reason communism died was that Soviet young people wanted the inalienable right to race fast cars, listen to rock music and do the same goofy things as their counterparts elsewhere. In this instance, the PM, like Ronald Reagan, demonstrated a gift for cutting through clutter and synthesizing geopolitics in one tidy tale. Reagan, too, was criticized for being lazy and dismissive of detail: there were stories of him falling asleep in cabinet meetings, forgetting names of longtime aides and not knowing or caring about key sectors of foreign policy. Sound like any leader you know? But a lot of smart people make a good case that Reagan was one of the greatest American presidents.

A successful leader needs a variety of skills, but micromanagement isn't necessarily among them. In fact, it can be a detriment: no leader ever paid more attention to the nuts and bolts of managing than Jimmy Carter, and he got so caught up in deciding *how* to run things that he forgot *where* he wanted to go. Reagan had only three big thoughts: government was too big, taxes too high and the Soviet Union too well armed. He focused on each at the expense of all else. overall, it worked. At home, three of our most successful leaders are the PM, Ralph Klein and Mike Harris. None of them lie awake at night, sweating small stuff. They set a course in a certain direction and let others figure out how to get there.

Many politicians never learn that voters see human failing as a virtue, not a vice—so long as it's within reason. The smartest thing Stockwell Day has done in his campaign to lead the Canadian Alliance is confess that he smoked marijuana as a teen. before that, his background as a Pentecostal preacher helped feed his media image as a religious zealot. Although Preston Manning seldom puts his religious beliefs out front when talking politics, those convictions have been a hindrance, not a help, in the eyes of many journalists and some voters. When people say fellow Alliance candidate Tom Long is a relative moderate on social issues, some of that is because Long (like Reagan, for that matter) is a small-c conservative with a previous marriage under his belt. Someone who has experienced breakdown or failure in his personal life seems less likely to be too judgmental. So those revelations help the Alliance confront its biggest problem—the perception that the party wants to stick its nose into the nation's bedrooms.

What Canadians really like from politicians is humility. One of Brian Mulroney's problems was that he always looked over-groomed and overly pleased with himself: he should have loosened his tie, shortened his vocabulary and let the real guy within come out. Kim Campbell's dalliance with voters flamed when it became apparent that, in her view, she never did anything wrong: her gaffes were always the result of biased reporting, or sexist views, or people who didn't listen, or the previous leader, or... — And Pierre Trudeau's popularity soared after Margaret left him: it humanized his glacial image. Joe Clark scores best when he makes fun of himself, but he ruins things by appearing needlessly stubborn and arrogant, such as the way in which he has several times failed to notify caucus before making sudden policy changes.

This week, the PM is home in the wake of his most embarrassing road trip in more than six years in power. As a politician, he's been guided by two principles. He likes being underestimated, because it lets him look like a modest guy who knows he has much to be modest about. But he refuses to ever admit mistakes, which runs directly counter to that image. When it comes time to explain to the Commons how he managed to annoy Israel, Palestine and Syria all at once, you can, sadly, bet a lot of money on exactly how the PM will act. *Doonesbury* cartoonist Garry Trudeau used to hypothesize that usually nice guy George Bush had an evil twin brother, Skippy, who was *really* responsible for his hubris and lapses of judgment. So maybe that guy who will soon be popping up in Parliament denying, dissembling, deflecting and denouncing all who oppose him isn't the PM, but rather a malevolent, self-destructive clone. For those who otherwise admire Chrétien, that would actually be a comforting explanation.



Peter C. Newman

The vacuum at the top

Seldom, if ever before, has the Canadian political scene become so suddenly and poisonously volatile. In one corner is the embattled Liberal leader, Jean Chrétien, determined to hang on to power, even if he takes his party down with him. That's an exercise that would likely take two elections to bring about, but is a very real possibility. In 2001, the Liberals will most likely emerge with a much reduced mandate, having to face Parliament as a minority government for the first time since 1972-1974. The election after that will sweep them out of office.

This is an entirely plausible scenario, despite the fact that most Canadians approve of the Liberal government's performance. Any leader's power base begins eroding whenever his party's popularity runs ahead of his own. That has seldom happened to Liberals, because in the past its leaders have succeeded one another in orderly fashion, just as popes do, not even leaving behind a puff of white smoke. But it's happening to Jean Chrétien now. Too bad. He had the chance of joining the exclusive club of political heroes who actually quit while they were ahead. Only five examples come to mind: premiers Peter Lougheed of Alberta, John Robarts of Ontario and Frank McKenna of New Brunswick, and prime ministers Mackenzie King and Lester Pearson.

Speaking of puffs of smoke, the kind left behind by the speedy Road Runner, conjures up Stockwell Day. What he brings to the table is the one element currently missing among federal politicians: new energy. All of the existing national political leaders are suffering from the kind of profound psychic exhaustion that translates into arrogance (Jean Chrétien), silliness (Joe Clark), predictability (Preston Manning) and irrelevance (What's-her-name of the NDP). Stockwell Day has other problems, but at least he's alive.

Day's campaign is being hurt, but not yet crippled by his obdurate and medieval stands on abortion and homosexual rights. He's against both, which is his right, but to most voters, those positions will signal an undesirable step backward in Canada's social evolution. He has been so vocal on these issues that he no longer has the luxury of many politicians who feel the same way, but keep their views to themselves. On the other hand, he is fresh, exciting and credible.

The 92-per-cent support harvested by Manning to create the Canadian Reform Conservative Alliance represents a strong swing among former Reformers to opt for a new-model political vehicle designed to carry them into power. But the one-sided result does not indicate that Manning will automatically garner the same percentage in the June 24 leadership vote. "The sense I get," maintains one of the new party's strong partisans, "is that there's a pretty healthy neutrality in play, and that Preston isn't as strong as he appears to be. He has made many enemies, which is inevitable for anyone who has led a party for 13 years, but more to the point, he is still regarded as more of a whiner than a winner."

With his late entry expected this week, and given the Alliance's intellectual shallowness and its hazy view of global economics, Tom Long's candidacy seems too improbable to succeed. But he may be the only one with the guts and talent to drag the Alliance into the 20th century, and, who knows, perhaps even into the 21st.

The joker in the pack, as might be expected, is Joe Clark. Now that the Alliance has been officially breech-birthed, the Conservative leader's rationale for trying to revive his party is kaput. As long as Reform and the Tories split the right, Ontario's seven million voters swung twice solidly behind Chrétien. Now that there is a lively third choice, the likelihood of another Liberal sweep of the province has vanished. With the Alliance on the march, it will be Ontario's ballots that will humble the mighty Liberals. Reduced to a powerless minority, Chrétien will finally leave and attempt to bypass Paul Martin by anointing the most publicly loyal of his loyalists, Newfoundland Premier Brian Tobin. It won't work.

With the prospect of being left out of the action, several members of the Tory caucus will take the hint and walk down the Commons aisle to the Alliance side. The next six months will witness some major destabilizing raids by all parties except the Bloc, as they denude Joe Clark of his remaining support.

Our political malaise runs deeper than Joe Clark or finding suitable leaders for the 21st century. Perhaps the real trouble is that after years—hell, generations—of becoming disillusioned with various prime ministers and premiers, Canadians no longer believe that their problems have political solutions. Politics has always had its limits, but now that we live in an electronic environment, plugged into the Internet, e-mail and the satellites circling the Earth, we don't need political entities to tell us what to think.

Every country is a mystery composed of the lives of strangers, men and women whose only legal link is a piece of paper proclaiming their vague allegiance to shared citizenship. Because Canada was born as an artificial political union in defiance of economic and geographic logic, we have ever since been poised on the edge of collapse.

The countdown to the next election has started. That campaign will define the style and substance of the governance we'll need for the new century. So far, we only have safe men competing for a safe job. What we need is a leader brave enough to realize that the greatest risk is to not take one.



Ending the Terror



By Brian Bergman in Edmonton

For years, many of Wiebo Ludwig's neighbours in the remote Peace River district of northwestern Alberta have watched with dismay and mounting frustration as the former Christian Reformed minister became a national figure—and, in some quarters, even a folk hero. Patriarch of a 35-member avowedly Christian commune, Ludwig won lavish media coverage as a self-styled environmentalist who loudly decried an oil and gas industry he claimed was poisoning the atmosphere—and his land. Through it all, people like Rob Everton, who lives within two kilometres of Ludwig's Trickle Creek farm near the village of Hythe, painted a different picture of Ludwig—as a dangerous man engaged in a vandalism and bombing campaign that terrorized a rural community. Often, Everton felt no one was listening. "From the start," he told *Maclean's*, "it's been an uphill battle to get out the truth of what this fellow is really about."

Last week, Everton was among three dozen Hythe-area residents who travelled six hours by chartered bus to Edmonton, where Ludwig, 58, and fellow commune member Richard Boonstra, 55, have been at the centre of a sensational eight-week trial. Along with nearly 200 other spectators—including more than a dozen reporters—they listened intently as Court of Queen's Bench Justice Sterling Sanderman pronounced Ludwig guilty of five criminal offences, including bombing one gas well, vandalizing another, and counselling and conspiring to obtain explosives. Sanderman also found Boonstra guilty of one count of oil patch vandalism. Although Sanderman dismissed or stayed many more charges than he upheld—at the trial's outset Ludwig and Boonstra faced a total of 37 counts, many of them mischief and conspiracy charges—the Hythe-area visitors expressed relief and gratitude at his verdict. "He clearly understood how Ludwig operates," said forestry contractor Brian Peterson. "This is a man who will use bombs to further his cause. It's a terrible thing and when you live with it in your backyard, it's hell."

The verdict follows a roller-coaster trial in which the Crown's case frequently threatened to go off the rails. The prosecution's star witness was Robert Wraight, a former Ludwig friend who became a paid police informant. Wraight's monetary motives—he also sought, unsuccessfully, to sell his property to the Alberta Energy Company, one of the targets for oil patch vandalism—led Justice Sanderman to describe his testimony as "tainted." Worse yet, Wraight suffered brain injuries in a car crash in the mid-1980s that left him with both short- and long-term memory losses—a fact unknown to the RCMP when they recruited him to infiltrate the Trickle Creek commune.

Because of the flawed nature of Wraight's testimony, Sanderman asserted that the Crown needed strong corroborating evidence to make its case. This should have come in the form of 29 hours of audiotapes secretly recorded by the RCMP while Wraight dealt with Ludwig and Boonstra at Trickle Creek and other locations around Hythe in October and November of 1998. Wraight wore a down-filled vest with a microphone and transmitter hidden inside; a receiver wired to a reel-to-reel recorder in his truck picked up the signal. But the resulting tapes were of such abysmal quality that even after the RCMP paid a Calgary sound engineer $70,000 to try to filter out static and background noises, Sanderman was often left straining to hear the content and context of what was being said.

> Wiebo Ludwig is found guilty of vandalizing and bombing oil wells in Alberta's Peace River region



Boonstra leaving court; Ludwig (opposite) 'an act of revenge for what you believed they did to your family'

In dismissing several of the conspiracy and mischief charges, Sanderman said that "the evidence from the tapes does not establish beyond a reasonable doubt" the accused committed the offences. But in some instances, the recordings did prove revealing. In one exchange, said Sanderman, Ludwig could clearly be heard counselling Wraight to obtain explosives; other evidence, he added, showed Ludwig later followed Wraight's instructions to retrieve what Ludwig believed to be dynamite from a highway culvert. Sanderman was equally certain of Ludwig and Boonstra's role in damaging a Norcen Energy Resources Ltd. well site a few kilometres north of Trickle Creek on Nov. 30, 1997. A note later found at the site demanded $2 million from the company to compensate the Ludwig family. Sanderman said that, the next day at a television station in Dawson Creek, just over the British Columbia border, Ludwig dropped off a videotape depicting the vandalism. "He was intent on publicizing what had been done at the Norcen site," observed Sanderman, "even before it had been discovered by the oil company."

The most serious charge upheld against Ludwig was that he set off an explosion at a Suncor Energy Inc. well site near Hinton, Alta., in the early hours of Aug. 24, 1998. In this instance, said Sanderman, "the circumstantial evidence against Mr. Ludwig is overwhelming." On the evening of Aug. 23, an RCMP surveillance team tracked a van containing Ludwig, his wife, Mamie, and two or more unidentified occupants as they drove more than 300 km through remote bush country. The police lost sight of the van for about 13 minutes at a point near the well site. The following evening—13 hours after the explosion—Ludwig was picked up along the roadside within 30 km of the Suncor site. His clothing was covered in moss and twigs and a hand swab later taken by police revealed residues consistent with explosives.

Sanderman said Ludwig had a clear motive for the Suncor bombing. Three days before the blast, Ludwig's daughter-in-law, Renée Boonstra, gave birth to a lifeless, deformed infant, Abel Ryan. The family blamed the stillbirth on sour gas emissions. In a videotape of the child's funeral, later played in court, Renée said of Ryan, "Your blood now cries out from the ground for justice from the evil that now all around us abounds." Directly addressing a grim-faced Ludwig in court, Sanderman said the ex-preacher had carried out "an act of revenge against the oil industry for what you believed they did to your immediate family."

Ludwig, who is facing up to 14 years in jail, remained in custody pending sentencing this week, while Boonstra was released on bail. But for Ludwig's neighbours, the saga is far from over. There is still the unresolved shooting death of 16-year-old Karman Willis last June when she and seven friends went for an early morning joyride on Ludwig's property. Police are stymied by the fact that commune members refuse to talk. With Trickle Creek's patriarch out of the picture, Peterson, among others, is hoping for a breakthrough. "I think the guilt someone is feeling will build," he says, "and eventually they will come forward." Until that happens, he adds, Alberta's Peace district will not live up to its name.

Negative diagnosis

Protesters lash out at Alberta's plans for private health care

By Brian Bergman in Edmonton

Ralph, Ralph, come on out,
we've got something to talk about
—chanting protesters outside the Alberta legislature

Erika Lefevre hadn't been to a political demonstration since her student days when she protested against the Vietnam War. In fact, Lefevre, now a French instructor, professes little interest in partisan politics. But like thousands of other Albertans, she came out last week to express her anger over Bill 11, Premier Ralph Klein's controversial health-care legislation that proposes to expand the private sector's role in providing surgical services. "Klein was not elected to privatize our health-care system," Lefevre told *Maclean's* as she attended her third rally of the week on the steps of the province's historic legislature. "We're here to say we want a voice in how we are governed."



At the legislature; Sutherland (below): a flurry of demonstrations against Bill 11, which would allow private clinics to perform surgeries requiring overnight stays

In a province where the Conservatives have enjoyed commanding majorities during an uninterrupted 29-year rule, the flurry of protests caps a rare period of political turbulence. The most contentious aspect of Bill 11, which was introduced on March 2, is a provision allowing private clinics to perform surgeries requiring overnight stays. All procedures would be fully covered by the provincial health-care plan. Klein says the government wants to reduce waiting lists and relieve pressure on the public system—but critics contend he is paving the way for American-style, two-tiered health care.



With Bill 11 entering third and final reading last week, opponents stepped up the pressure. The Friends of Medicare —a coalition of union activists, clergy and others—organized major rallies in mid-April in Calgary and Edmonton, which drew some 10,000 people to listen to speeches by, among others, Hollywood actor Kiefer Sutherland—grandson of medicare founder Tommy Douglas. Throughout the week, protesters gathered nightly at the legislature as MLAs debated Bill 11.

The most raucous demonstration occurred on April 18. After being denied entry to the legislature, hundreds of people tried to push past security guards and police. They pounded on the doors and windows, chanting, "This is our house." A half-dozen protesters crawled through an unlocked ground-floor window and set off fire alarms. The next evening, an even larger crowd —estimated at 1,000—gathered for a peaceful rally that included a candlelight vigil.

Klein angrily blamed the Alberta Liberal party, which has helped mobilize the opposition to Bill 11, for inciting what he called the 'deplorable, despicable behaviour' of some of the protesters. Klein said he would not be deterred from passing the legislation—although he backed down from an earlier vow to invoke closure to end debate on the bill by the Easter weekend.

In fact, Klein appears increasingly impervious to what he acknowledges is the "political fire storm" sparked by his health-care legislation. He is fond of recalling that his government faced loud protests over severe budget cuts it imposed in the mid-1990s—and then went on to win another resounding majority in 1997. But Klein was able to make deficit-cutting his issue because it was something easily explained, notes University of Calgary political scientist David Taras. "He talked about the Alberta house and the need to pay off the mortgage," Taras says. "The problem now is people don't understand how you save the public health-care system by increasing privatization. People don't get it—and he's not selling it very well." m

Ontario's lost villages

The 1959 opening of the seaway swallowed up links to the past

By Barbara Righton

On April 25, 1959, the first Canadian icebreaker plowed through the frozen surface of the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project. Stretching from Montreal to Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., the mammoth Canadian-U.S. co-venture, which officially opened in June of that year, was the product of nearly 60 years of political wrangling, costing more than $1 billion at the time. It drew 1.5 million tourists to the hub of construction, the "Seaway City" of Cornwall, Ont. With its ability to move 25,000-tonne ships from the Atlantic Ocean to the head of the Great Lakes and potential to generate 1.6 million kilowatts of hydroelectricity per day at the Moses-Saunders International power station, the seaway was hailed as "the greatest engineering feat of our time" by American newsman Walter Cronkite.

But other numbers and more sombre stories documenting the human cost were not as well publicized. Seven entire communities—Milles Roches, Moulinette, Wales, Dickinson's Landing, Farran's Point, Aultsville and Iroquois—were flooded, the waters swallowing up 20,000 acres and 1,100 farms. About 6,500 people lost their homes and, with that, a part of their history. Some 40 years after Ontario Hydro bought her family's 180-year-old dairy farm, Katie Mullin, 92, still fumes. The property appraisers "would come and wear you down," she says. "They'd walk all over the property and start cutting down our trees"—to prepare the land for flooding before she had agreed to sell.

Mullin sold her land only after being threatened with expropriation under an 1889 federal law that was finally softened in 1970. Many of those whose land was seized were descendants of the United Empire Loyalists who arrived in 1783, after the American Revolution. But ancestral homes were not the only casualty. The mighty Long Sault Rapids, once travelled by the Prince of Wales, were ignominiously dammed up and drained. Seventeen churches, 18 graveyards and a favourite church picnic spot, Sheek Island, were also submerged.



Brownell (right) and Mullin: Hydro's property appraisers 'would come and wear you down'

To compensate communities for their sacrifices, the government launched a "rehabilitation program" in June, 1955, the year expropriation began. Under the plan, Ontario Hydro promised to pay market value plus a small percentage for the land. But Mullin contends the prospect of flooding badly depressed values. "The only people who thought it was a good deal were the people who had very little," she says.

What wasn't submerged was moved. Hydro transferred the oldest headstones of the 5,059 graves to be flooded to a commemorative wall in Crysler Park outside Cornwall. And a few recently buried bodies were exhumed. But most graves were "capped"—covered by a layer of fill—before "Inundation Day" on July 1, 1958. For the living, the communities of Long Sault and Ingleside were created specifically to receive 531 transplanted houses. Jim Brownell, a Long Sault public schoolteacher and president of the Lost Villages Historical Society, which runs a commemorative site near Cornwall, was 10 at the time. He recalls the unbelievable sight of three moving machines parading whole houses down the town's new streets. "One woman forgot to move the plates off her mantle," Brownell recalls. When the house arrived, he says, "they were still intact."

From the edge of one of the lost villages, Brownell waited for the explosion of the coffer dam to signal the beginning of the flooding—an event watched by thousands gathered at the hydro dam. "For me, it was exciting," he says. "But the adults were very sad. Some were quite bitter." That bitterness might have abated had the seaway delivered on its economic promises. The initial boom in the Cornwall area, fuelled by thousands of construction jobs, went bust almost as soon as the waters rose. And the seaway, says Brownell, is in danger of becoming obsolete because many of today's supertankers are too large for the Canadian locks—a final irony for Katie Mullin and others whose lands were flooded. m

Echoes of the Columbine massacre

It happened on April 20, exactly one year after the massacre at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo. A teenager in an Ottawa-area high school, a victim of taunting, went on a rampage with a knife—stabbing four students and one staff member, none of them critically, before his principal convinced him to surrender. Police recovered a serrated steak knife at Cairine Wilson Secondary School in Orleans, Ont., just east of the capital. They charged a youth, in hospital with self-inflicted wounds to his wrist and hands, with attempted murder, assault with a weapon and mischief.



Jim Young/Reuters

Shock in Orléans: a teenager harassed at school

Schools across North America had braced themselves for similar incidents in the face of anonymous threats—a message left in the washroom of one Toronto high school said "If you thought Columbine was bad, just wait." But the day passed without any other violence. People gathered at a park in Littleton, where two Columbine students killed one staff member, 12 students and themselves last year. "The kind of tragedy that we have been through has the potential to tear a community apart," said school superintendent Jane Hammond. "I am so proud that has not happened to us." But there was also anger: last week, lawyers representing the families of 15 victims—23 people were also injured in the rampage—filed nine suits accusing the sheriff's department of handling the incident irresponsibly.

There was also a memorial in Taber, Alta., where one student at W. R. Myers High School died and another was injured in a copycat shooting eight days after the Columbine rampage. The mother of the 15-year-old youth awaiting trial has said her son was the victim of harassment. Student council president Amie Harding addressed that issue, telling reporters: "We need to find better ways to treat each other."

A blow for Clark

Ontario Finance Minister Ernie Eves announced he was resigning from the federal Conservatives to back veteran organizer Tom Long in his bid for the leadership of the Canadian Alliance party. Eves did state that his support for the new party is dependent on a Long victory. But his decision was seen as a blow for federal Tory Leader Joe Clark, whose party members have been targeted by the Alliance in its efforts to win voters east of Manitoba.

Meanwhile, the Alliance leadership campaign got a slightly different form of publicity with the admission by Stockwell Day that he smoked marijuana as a teen. Day, on leave from his job as Alberta treasurer, told reporters "I did inhale," in a joking reference to U.S. President Bill Clinton's infamous admission that he had once tried the drug—without inhaling.

A fatal fire funnel

Irvin Harder, 63, was killed when a massive straw fire in Winkler, Man., created a 50-m tornado that sucked him out of the truck he was driving. The fire, at Ecusta Fibre where Harder was employed, consumed 90,000 bundles of straw. Two passengers in the truck survived the fire funnel and were hospitalized. Police suspect arson.

Violent offender in court

A dangerous-offender hearing in Calgary for Jean-Guy Tremblay was delayed while the Crown tried to find an interpreter to translate the testimony of his mother, Estelle Lalonde. Tremblay, 36, has 14 convictions for violent offences, mostly against women, including pushing an 81-year-old down the stairs. He is best known for getting a court order to stop his former girlfriend Chantal Daigle from ending her pregnancy. The case went to the Supreme Court in 1989 and was overturned after Daigle revealed she had already had an abortion.

A record libel award

The CBC was ordered to pay $950,000 in damages to Dr. Frans Leenen of the University of Ottawa. The amount, believed to set a record for a libel decision against a Canadian media outlet, arises from allegations made by *the fifth estate* in a segment about the safety of a heart medication. In his ruling, Justice Douglas Cunningham of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice called some *fifth estate* journalists "parasitic sensationalists."

Prison time for a killer

A B.C. Supreme Court judge has ordered teen killer Kelly Ellard to serve at least five years in prison before she can apply for parole. Ellard, 17, was convicted on March 31 of second-degree murder in the 1997 beating and drowning death of Reena Virk, 14. For adults, second-degree murder carries a life sentence with no chance of parole for 10 years. But juveniles who are convicted in adult court, such as Ellard, are eligible to apply earlier. Virk's family expressed outrage over the sentence, which was the lowest Judge Nancy Morrison could impose.

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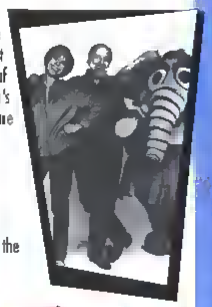
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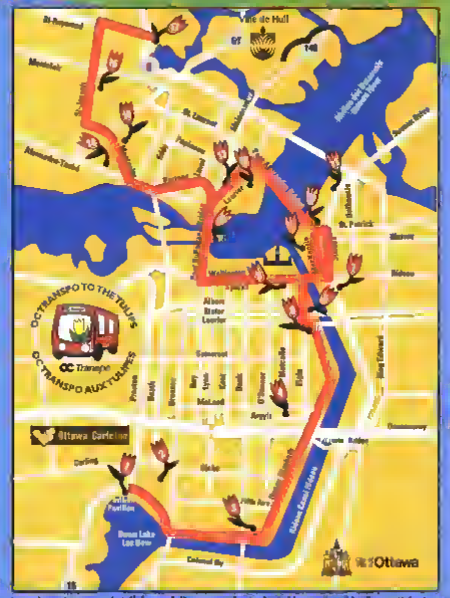


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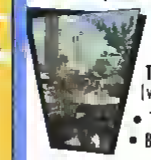
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Canada Notes

Tory tidal wave on the Island

The Prince Edward Island legislature is going to be a lonely place for Ron MacKinley. The North River potato farmer and 15-year MLA was the only Liberal to keep his seat when the Conservatives, led by Premier Pat Binns, swept the election, winning 26 of 27 seats. It was the worst defeat in provincial history for the Liberals, who won 34 per cent of the popular vote compared with 58 per cent for the Tories and eight per cent for the New Democrats.

The Liberal leader for the past year, Wayne Carew, a former car dealer from Summerside, was defeated, while NDP Leader Herb Dickieson, a family physician and the only New Democrat ever elected to the legislature, failed in his re-election bid. Binns, 51, a laid-back bean farmer from Montague, ran on the slogan "Let's continue," as he pledged more of the economic prosperity the Island has enjoyed since he took power in 1996 (the provincial unemployment rate has dropped to 11.6 per cent from 15.3 per cent).



Binns' led Tory win

Bernardo's lawyer takes the stand

Ken Murray, Paul Bernardo's original lawyer, said he believed videotapes of his client sexually assaulting and torturing two teenage girls would have helped his defence of the convicted sex killer. Murray, who is on trial in St. Catharines, Ont., on charges of obstructing justice by holding on to the tapes for 16 months, insisted under cross-examination that the videos, which depict Bernardo and his former wife, Karla Homolka, assaulting teens Leslie Mahaffy and Kristen French, implicate Homolka as the more likely murderer. "My conclusion was that Karla Homolka stopped their breath," testified Murray. He said he wanted to confront Homolka with the tapes in court, but while he suppressed the videos, Homolka made a deal with the Crown: 12 years for manslaughter in exchange for testifying against Bernardo.

A Yukon upset

For the first time since party politics was introduced to the Yukon in 1978, the Liberals won the territorial election. Under leader Pat Duncan, the party will form a government with 10 seats in the 17-seat legislature compared with five for the NDP and two for the Yukon Party. Outgoing NDP premier Piers McDonald, an 18-year veteran of the legislature, lost his seat, as did Yukon Party Leader John Ostashek, who was premier from 1992 to 1996.

Tania Bélisle-Leclerc traveled over 12,000 kms to get to Ghana.

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Eye of the Storm

U.S. agents grab Cuban Elián González in a predawn raid

By Andrew Phillips in Washington

It didn't take long for people in Miami's Little Havana district to turn the most powerful image that emerged from the seizure of young Elián González into a weapon against the U.S. government. Even as the six-year-old boy was being reunited with his father at an air force base near Washington, angry Cuban-Americans were in the streets brandishing copies of a photograph. A federal agent, outfitted with helmet, face mask and full body armour, reaches out to grasp Elián as the boy cowers in the arms of Donato Dalrymple, the fisherman who rescued him from the sea last November. The agent's other arm cradles an assault rifle, pointed in the general direction of the boy. Within a few hours, poster-sized copies of the photo were being displayed by people protesting the raid. Emblazoned on it were the words "Federal child abuse."

The raid at a few minutes after 5 a.m. on Saturday may have ended one chapter in the sad saga of Elián. Agents of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service swooping in on the Little Havana house where Elián's



Wilfredo Lee/AP



Clockwise from right: Miami Cubans demonstrate after Elián's seizure; the boy and his father reunited, with stepmother Nersy and half-brother Hiamny; an INS agent carries Elián from the Miami house; an agent confronts Dalrymple with the boy; the armed raid enraged Elián's anti-Castro relatives who want him to remain in the United States

Miami relatives were keeping him managed to carry the boy out without physical harm to him or anyone else. The entire operation took just three minutes—from the time the agents broke down the front door to the moment a female agent rushed out with Elián, his face distorted in apparent terror, wrapped in a blanket. But the way the raid unfolded ensured that the bitter struggle over the boy's ultimate fate will continue, likely for months, and the feelings surrounding it grow ever more intense.



Miami, or at least its influential community of Cuban-American anti-communist exiles, had been acting for months like a semi-independent republic, openly defying federal orders to turn over Elián. The shock of the raid only deepened that divide. "I am ashamed," said Miami Mayor Joe Carollo, "of what our country did here." Dalrymple, who plucked the boy from the ocean after his mother drowned trying to take him from Cuba to Florida in a makeshift vessel, sobbed as he recounted the ordeal. "They ripped him out of my arms," he cried. "He was screaming, 'Help me! Help me!' I rescued him from the ocean but I couldn't rescue him from the United States government."

For the Cuban-Americans who turned Elián into an icon of their four-decade struggle against the regime of Fidel Castro, the timing of the raid could not have been worse. Coming on Easter weekend, it outraged the religious feelings underlying their devotion to the cause of keeping Elián in the United States. Little Havana has been decorated with billboards depicting the boy's improbable rescue at sea as a metaphor for their survival and resurrection. In the most extreme interpretations, he has been seen as a Christ-child upholding Cuban freedom. The raid violated all that. "This is like crucifying the Messiah all over again," said Ralph Antrich, a Cuban-American social worker.

It was left to federal officials to defend their decision to go in, as well as the tactics they used. Attorney General Janet Reno—scarred by memories of the bloody 1993 raid on a cult compound in Waco, Tex.—had tried for weeks to negotiate a solution. In fact, she said, she had been trying to find a settlement until 4 a.m. on Saturday, one hour before INS agents stormed in. One idea under discussion was a compromise under which the Miami family could have had some access to Elián after he was reunited with his father. But, Reno said, "at every step of the way the Miami relatives kept moving the goal posts and raising hurdles." Her department believed there might be guns inside the house, and there were reports that armed Cuban-Americans were prepared to defend the house. As a result, Reno said, the INS showed up fully armed and prepared for the worst.

Elián's father, Juan Miguel González, has promised to keep his son in the United States as the inevitably lengthy court proceedings over what should happen to him drag on. Indeed, a federal appeals court ruled last week that he must not leave the country until his status is finally decided. That could take months, time that he is expected to spend with his father, stepmother and half-brother at a "safe house" in the Washington area. The fight for public opinion will also continue. As Cuban-Americans brandished the instantly infamous photo of the raid, Juan Miguel González's lawyer released a very different image. It shows Elián, reunited with his father just a few hours later, smiling and, as far as anyone can tell, happy to be there.

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Lust and Money

A Canadian porn star and the two wealthy businessmen who loved her are starring in a courtroom drama

By Andrew Phillips in New York City

Call it "The Case of the Woman Who Wasn't There." In the coolly modern courtroom 15B of the federal courthouse in lower Manhattan last week, two men sat at the defendants' table. James McDermott—a 48-year-old onetime Wall Street merger king with the beefy build of a college athlete gone to seed—fidgeted and joked with his lawyers. Anthony Pomponio—a 45-year-old New Jersey businessman with a fish-belly complexion and a taste for glitzy casinos—stared glumly straight ahead. Both faced charges of conspiracy and securities fraud that could net them 15 years in prison and fines of up to $1.5 million. Conspicuous by her absence was the woman who was their partner in sex and, if U.S. prosecutors are to be believed, crime. Instead, Kathryn Gannon—31-year-old stripper, veteran of 100 hard-core adult videos, and aspiring financial adviser—was in hiding somewhere in Canada.

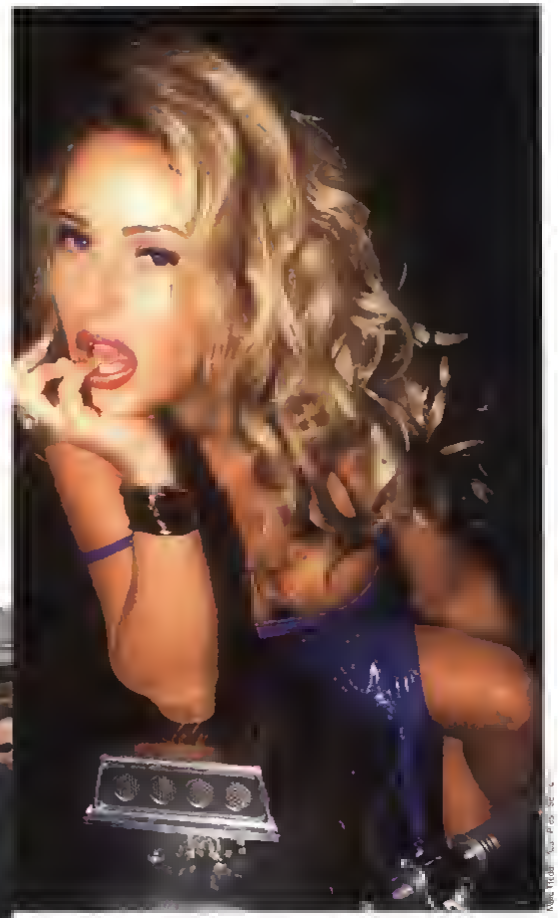
An unlikely trio: the master of the universe, the gambler and the porn queen. For seven days, prosecutors tried to convince a jury that the three were involved in an insider-trading scheme that netted $128,000 for Pomponio and $130,000 for Gannon, a B.C. native better known in the X-rated film business as Marylin Star. Along the way, they detailed the ambitions of a woman determined to make it outside the skin trade—as well as the secret life of a man who once had it all. "On the surface, James McDermott appeared to be the master of his universe," assistant U.S. attorney Alex Oh told the court. "What was not visible was that he was leading a dual life, a life hardly anyone knew about."

Until last year, in fact, McDermott was at the top of his game. He was chairman of Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, a small but prestigious New York City investment banking firm, taking home a reported $6 million a year. He had been married to his wife, Darian, who sat nervously behind him in court, for 26 years; they lived with two teenage daughters on a $4.5-million suburban estate. McDermott specialized in mergers and acquisitions, and was a regular on financial talk shows. But in the fall of 1996, he began a clandestine relationship with Gannon, a four-foot, 11-inch blond who had carved out a lucrative career in the sex industry with scores of videos, personal tours and her own Web site. She was stripping at a club in New York; he introduced himself and they began an affair that lasted for two years.

Around the same time, Gannon met Pomponio at the Taj Mahal, Donald Trump's opulent casino in Atlantic City, N.J. Pomponio told investigators he was playing baccarat and was invited upstairs, where a porn-industry convention was going on. There he met Gannon, who had started stripping in Alberta and B.C. clubs in the late 1980s, was named Miss Nude B.C. in 1991, and soon after headed to Los Angeles to make it in the porn business. She and Pomponio began a two-year relationship that went from sex to something like friendship. "I was going through a midlife crisis," Pomponio, who is married with a three-year-old daughter, told investigators. "I was with her sexually about four times. I felt guilty." For the most part, he said, he and Gannon just talked on the phone.



Robert F. Mecom, AP



Nick Ut/AP; Courtesy of Penthouse

Gannon at a recent porn industry convention in Atlantic City; McDermott (left): sex and insider investment tips

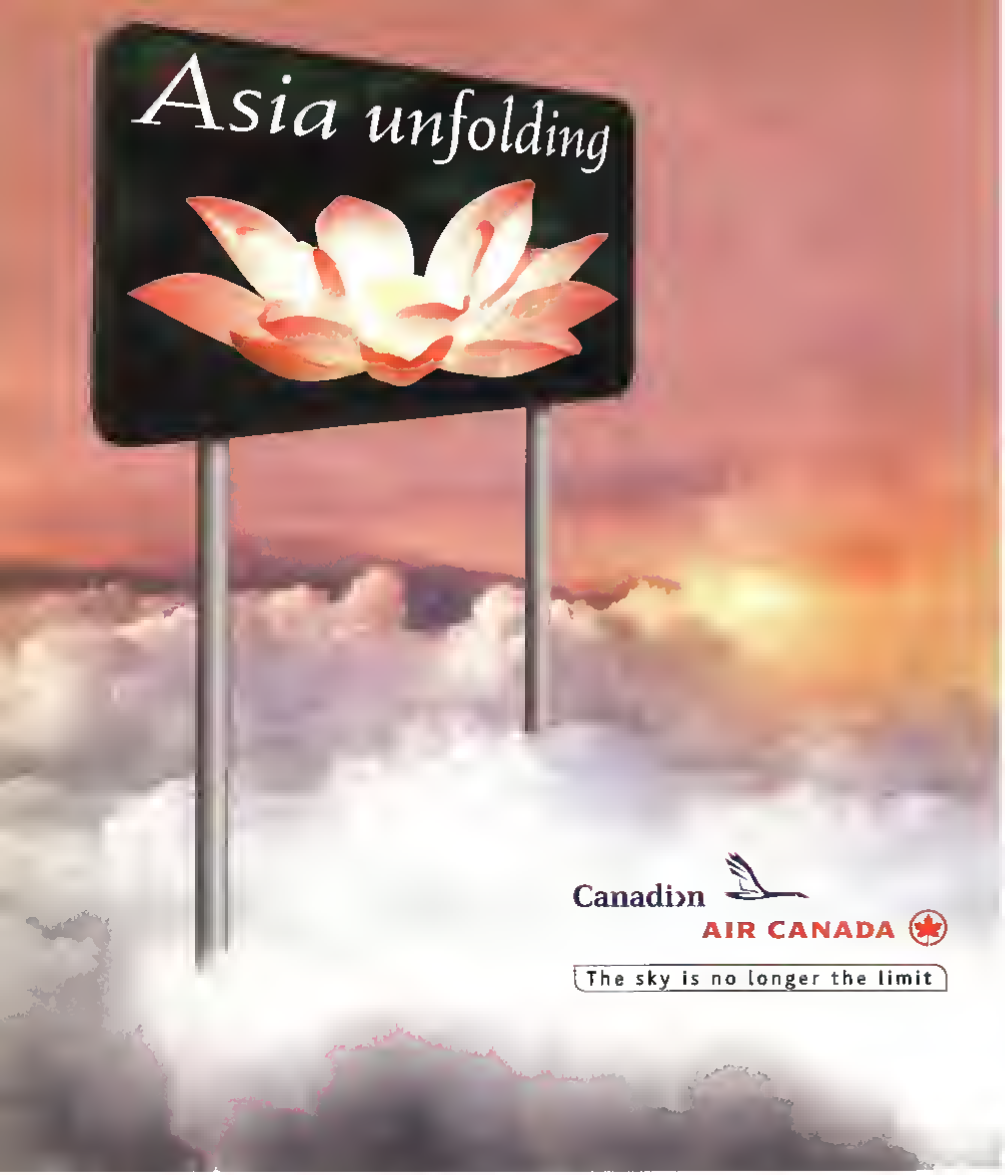
What they talked about eventually brought down the wrath of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Gannon, it turned out, had a passion for the stock market as well as for having public sex with strangers (at one point, she planned to stage an event to welcome the millennium that would have involved having sex with 2,000 men). SEC investigators, looking into suspicious trading of stock in several regional U.S. banks, found that Gannon and Pomponio bought shares in the same six banks within days, and sometimes hours, of each other starting in June, 1997.

Further, they discovered, McDermott's company was advising the banks as they planned mergers that boosted their stock price. Prosecutors showed that shortly before Gannon and Pomponio made their trades, Keefe, Bruyette & Woods put the banks on its "watch list" of firms that senior executives cannot buy or recommend. McDermott, they charge, gave the inside information to Gannon—who passed it on to Pomponio. "The timing," Oh told the jury, "demonstrates to you that Gannon had a little edge that other investors and members of the public did not have."

Both men have pleaded not guilty. McDermott's lawyers say he told Gannon about the bank stocks *before* they were put on the watch list, so the trades were not covered by insider-trading laws. Pomponio insisted that the timing of the trades was "mostly a coincidence," influenced by the fact that he and Gannon traded stock tips during dozens of telephone chats. She never told him about mergers, he said, or mentioned McDermott by name. But he took her tips seriously because "I knew she knew a clientele of stockbrokers, lawyers and such." And in fact, Gannon was trying to educate herself about finance even as she continued her porn career from her home in Miami. She subscribed to *Investors Business Daily*, and Pomponio said she told him that she wanted to "get out of this business" and set herself up as a financial adviser.

As for Gannon, she fled to Canada—though U.S. authorities have begun extradition procedures against her. Just before Christmas, when the charges became public, reporters tracked her down to Vancouver where she was staying in a luxury condominium with her fiancé, local businessman Michael Gilley. She has spoken only through an old friend, Marc Medoff, who runs a New York agency called Adult Press Service ("we cover the erotic entertainment business the same way Reuters covers politics"). Medoff spoke to Gannon last week, and then told *Maclean's* that she is "no longer in western Canada"—though he would not say where she is. Medoff published the only interview with Gannon since the insider-trading affair broke, in which she called McDermott and Pomponio her "soulmates" even though they led her astray. "I trusted older, more experienced, powerful wealthy people who I assumed were acting properly," she told Medoff as she sobbed over the phone. "For God's sake, I'm an adult-movie actress, I'm not a professor of economics. Would the world give me a break here?"

Now, says Medoff, Gannon just hopes McDermott and Pomponio win when the jury decides their fate, most likely this week. She quit the porn business last spring in order to marry Gilley and start a family. "Kathryn has told me repeatedly she wants to come back to the United States," Medoff says. "She has friends and projects she wants to continue." What kind of projects? "All I can tell you is that Kathryn is a very creative, imaginative young lady. She's not planning to return to the world of porn, that's for sure. But she has some things in mind that will definitely put her in the public eye." Unless, of course, she ends up joining her onetime lovers in prison.



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Changes at the top in Italy

After consulting with the nation's political leaders, Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi asked Treasury Minister Giuliano Amato to form a new government. If he is successful, Amaro, nicknamed "Dr Subtle" for his skill at trimming government spending, would replace Massimo D'Alema, who resigned following a humiliating defeat in the country's regional elections. Amato would be Italy's 58th premier since the Second World War.

Powerful antibiotic approved

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved a long-awaited drug called Zyvox—the first entirely new antibiotic developed in 35 years. Zyvox works by blocking the formation of proteins that enable bacteria to spread inside the body. The drug, which has yet to be approved for Canada, will likely be widely used as a treatment against so-called superbugs—bacteria resistant to traditional antibiotics.

Ethiopia faces starvation

With the threat of widespread starvation facing many of Ethiopia's 60 million people, the Canadian government doubled emergency aid to the impoverished country to almost $16 million. The United Nations estimates that relief organizations will have to distribute 800,000 tonnes of food aid to head off the crisis that has been triggered by a three-year drought that devastated food crops. Canada's contribution would include the purchase of 24,000 tonnes of food.

The prime ministerial spin

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien said his 12-day trip to the Middle East—the first by a sitting prime minister—was a success as he dismissed criticism he had embarrassed Canada during the visit. Critics said he seemed unaware of many political issues in the region—and may have hurt the peace process by suggesting Israel should keep the Sea of Galilee—also claimed by Syria. But Chrétien claimed in an interview that the leaders he met welcomed him and did not take issue with his comments. "When I start something, sometimes people are a bit doubtful," he said. "But I tried to deliver the goods."

Blood stains the land in Zimbabwe

After standing by during two months of sometimes violent turmoil over land ownership, Zimbabwean police stepped in to rescue two white farmers just hours after they had been abducted. Encouraged by the non-intervention by the state, thousands of blacks, claiming to be veterans of the former Rhodesia's liberation war, have invaded hundreds of farms owned by whites, who control about one-third of Zimbabwe's productive land. Before the police action last week, a black policeman and two white farmers died in the deepening crisis over land ownership. Others were beaten and forced to flee.

Meeting with President Robert Mugabe, leaders of South Africa, Namibia and Mozambique attributed Zimbabwe's strife to a failure by Western nations to meet their commitments to help finance land reform in the former British colony. "The presidents were not there to support President Mugabe," said one South African diplomatic source. "We support Zimbabwe getting out of a difficult situation. This must not be personalized." In London, Foreign Office Minister Peter Hain said funds were available, but only when the "murder and mayhem" stopped.

Mugabe, 76, who has ruled Zimbabwe since its founding in 1980, struck fear into the white farmers last week when he called them "enemies of Zimbabwe" during a speech celebrating the country's 20th anniversary. The following day, however, he mediated talks between representatives of the farmers and Chenjerai (Hitler) Hunzvi, leader of the veterans' movement. But when Hunzvi, a Mugabe ally, then ordered the so-called veterans to stop their violence, it was to little effect. Rampaging gangs swiftly occupied more white-owned farms and abducted the two farmers. The veterans also defied a Zimbabwean court order to leave the occupied farms, and for the most part police took no action to force them out.


Vicky Kaufman/Reuters


Desi Kevanian/AFP

Policeman with a victim, a farmer evacuates his family (below), killed, beaten, forced to flee



❶ An ambulance. ❷ The Army. ❸ Head office, to suggest bumping up the relocation schedule.

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World Notes

Battle in Sri Lanka

Rebels fighting for an independent homeland in Sri Lanka claimed a major victory, saying they killed 1,000 soldiers and seized a military complex in a two-day battle. A government spokesman was unable to confirm or deny the statement from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The battle raged around a strategically placed base at Elephant Pass, a causeway connecting the northern peninsula to the rest of Sri Lanka.

A bombing remembered

A crowd gathered in Oklahoma City to mark the fifth anniversary of the worst act of domestic terrorism to strike the United States. At the site where, on April 19, 1995, a rented truck packed with explosives detonated and destroyed much of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, President Bill Clinton officially dedicated a new memorial to the 168 people who died in the blast.

Chernobyl kills

Officials of Ukraine's health ministry said that the health effects of the nuclear disaster at the Chernobyl power station in April, 1986, are continuing to worsen. According to ministry figures, 3.5 million people, more than a third of them children, are ill because of the contamination, while the incidence of some cancers is 10 times Ukraine's national average.

The fight against ecstasy

In an attempt to quell the use of the popular rave drug known as ecstasy, the U.S. government has trained 13 dogs to detect the aspirin-size pill. The canines are to be assigned to international airports in New York City, New Jersey, Miami and Los Angeles.

War-crimes arrest

NATO-led peacekeepers arrested a former Bosnian detention camp commander, Dragan Nikolic, accusing him of murder, torture and unlawful imprisonment.

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A Party for Gamblers

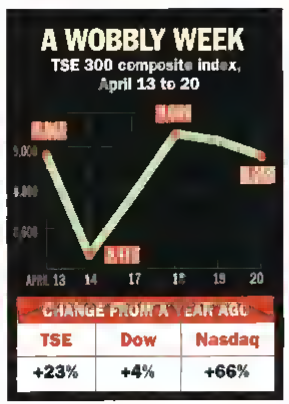
As the markets take a breather, investors count their losses and analysts watch for more trouble

By Patricia Chisholm

Toronto investor and self-described gambler Tsai Kian Sung got into the market two years ago for a very simple reason. "I'm 56—nobody would hire me." Soon, however, unemployment started to look pretty good to the former Hong Kong businessman. By March, 2000, his initial investment of $75,000 had swelled to $2.25 million—all of it through risky day-trading in the technology-heavy Nasdaq stock market. But his high-flying shares fell to earth in only a few weeks, as the Nasdaq went into a steep decline that led to a record-setting one-day plunge of nearly 10 per cent on April 14. His portfolio is now worth a relatively modest $150,000. Things could be a lot worse, though. "I'm up $75,000, so I'm still happy," he says. "If money was the most important thing to me, I'd have committed suicide. Gambling, it's all a part of life."

A life that, for many investors, has gotten a lot more dangerous. Can such carnage happen again? Quite possibly. In recent weeks, stocks have become a classic crap shoot, diving, soaring, diving and soaring again. After posting record losses of more than $1 trillion on April 14, North American markets took off on a two-day rally before seeming to run out of steam as the Easter weekend approached. The Toronto Stock Exchange 300 composite index was up 5.7 per cent on the week, but was trending down, while the Nasdaq regained almost all of the ground it lost on April 14, but also fell back slightly at the end. The much less techie Dow Jones industrial average, meanwhile, stayed up—gaining 5.2 per cent over the week.

The gloomiest analysts noted that the Crash of 1929 also happened in fall-rise-fall stages. But experts also pointed out that high-technology issues are the leading edge of a revolution that is here to stay. "The dreamers and the ones with way-out-there revenue models are dead meat," said Gordon Medland, a Vancouver broker and a governor of the Canadian Venture Exchange. "But the technology game is definitely on. Over time, it will dominate."



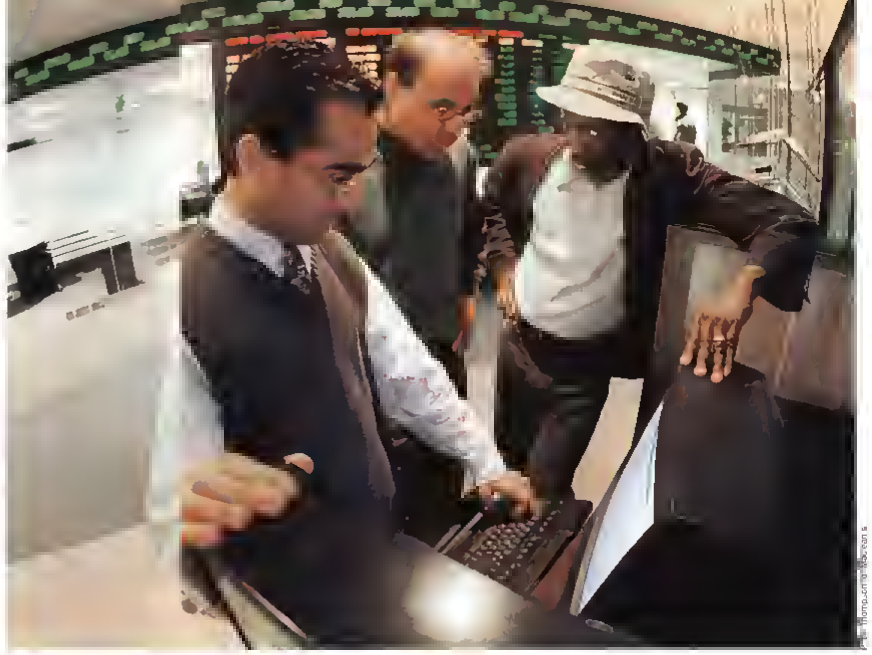
In the short term, however, others said that many tech stocks remain dramatically overpriced and that another deep correction is likely. Gary Hufbauer, senior fellow at the influential Institute for International Economics in Washington, cautioned that high-tech investors should remain extremely wary. "If you are buying at this stage, you should be in it for the long term or prepared to deal with another 30-per-cent drop," he said. "Otherwise, it could be hard on your sleep."

In hindsight, many retail investors may be kicking themselves for ignoring the early warning flags that started to appear over some tech stocks in March and early April. But even the professionals were tallying up large losses last week. One Toronto trader, who requested anonymity, lost about $16,000 of his own money in the meltdown. He predicts that markets will flatten out over the next six months, and that the next sustained rally will not get off the ground until the fall. Like many of his colleagues, he has seen his trading commissions fall off sharply as a result of market instability. He is not worried about his own job, but figures some of his peers should be. "I'd say about 20 per cent of young traders are in a professionally precarious position right now," he says.

Although few investors want to talk openly about their losses, the tech wreckage is clearly widespread. "I know people who've bought dot-com companies on their credit cards," says Halifax investment counsellor Robert Younker, president of J. R. Younker & Associates. "I know someone who is down $100,000 on their margin account. There are people—not my clients—who have been blown out of the water." Younker says he avoided dot-coms, and took the precaution of moving 20 per cent of his clients' funds into cash 10 weeks before the April 14 market dive. "We just felt everything had gotten out of hand," he says. "Now, we're telling our clients to buy."

Buying in the dips has become a common strategy over the past few years, embraced by even relatively unsophisticated investors. But last week's market comeback was also fuelled by solid earnings results from a number of flagship American companies. First quarter profits were handsome at Intel Corp., Coca-Cola Co. and Citigroup Inc., among others. Canadian companies did well in the first three months, too, including Canadian Pacific Ltd., up 157 per cent over a year earlier, and electronics manufacturer Celestica Inc., boasting a rise of 175 per cent. Even so, analysts also warn that buying on dips can be deadly if the general trend of the market is down.

Ironically, some of the biggest losers have been companies that were not even publicly traded when investors decided to flee tech stocks. Before the crash, investors were eagerly awaiting the first share issues of a handful of much-heralded high-tech companies, including 360networks Inc. of Vancouver and OnX Inc. of Toronto. Both decided to lower the price of their initial public offerings, fearing they would find few buyers. Sure enough, OnX, an e-commerce software firm, issued its shares at $10.50, by week's end they were hovering around $9.40. But Vancouver's 360networks, which is building a worldwide fibre-optic network, seemed to fare better: issued at $21, its shares closed after one day of trading at about $28.



Checking prices at a Toronto investor centre: the tech wreckage is widespread

Clearly, there are no crystal balls when it comes to stock market performance. On the plus side, most forecasters, including Washington's Hufbauer, believe economic growth in North America will remain healthy this year. On the down side, the U.S. Federal Reserve Board is almost certain to raise interest rates by at least another one-quarter of a percentage point in May, with further hikes likely later this year. There have already been five hikes since last June, as the Fed struggles to keep inflation under control. Some economic indicators are already beginning to slow, perhaps in anticipation of even higher credit costs. U.S. housing starts dropped by more than 11 per cent in March, compared with the previous month, and factory shipments slipped in Canada during February.

Hufbauer, who wrote in February that there would be a major stock market correction in March or April, believes there are further shakedowns to come. "My bones tell me that one of these times, the snap rally isn't going to snap," he says. "I think the trigger for that will be when we get some earnings reports that just aren't up to the very high expectations that are built into the market." With the Fed continuing to lean hard against inflation by raising rates, he adds, people are likely to start putting more of their money into value stocks or bonds. And that could well cause markets to start drifting downward. "I'm not talking about a massive dumping of tech stocks," he says. "It doesn't take much of a shift to change prices dramatically." Rolling the market dice, it seems, just got a whole lot riskier.

With John DeMont in Halifax and Susan Oh in Toronto

Business Notes

Welcome relief at the pump



Gassing up: prices may flatten out

Motorists were pleasantly surprised when gas prices, on an upward trend since early last year, began to drift downward. According to MJ Ervin & Associates, a Calgary consulting firm that tracks pump prices, the average cost of gasoline across Canada on April 18 was 66.8 cents a litre, compared with a high of 72.6 cents on March 21.

That is still considerably higher then the recent low of 47.5 cents set in January, 1999, when prices for crude oil dipped to less than $11 (U.S.) a barrel. Since then, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has succeeded in maintaining tighter quotas at the same time as worldwide demand for oil is rising. In March, OPEC agreed to open its spigots a little wider and crude drifted down to about $27 from more than $34, but analysts thought pump prices would fall much more gradually. Many said that unanticipated competition among retailers was probably responsible for most of last week's decline.

MJ Ervin president Michael Ervin said two opposing pressures will likely keep prices relatively stable over the next few months: while OPEC production is still increasing, demand is likely to begin rising as the summer driving season approaches.

Working harder for less

Most Canadians are no further ahead financially than they were in the 1970s, according to a study by the Ottawa-based Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. Over the last decade, average after-tax incomes have fallen by six percent, the study says. Using labour-force data from Statistics Canada, it also concludes that most people are working longer hours and are dealing with higher levels of stress. The left-wing think tank argues that federal policies, including tight-money strictures by the Bank of Canada, have been partly to blame.

Financial Outlook

Numbers released last week from Statistics Canada indicate that the hot Canadian economy could be cooling down. Manufacturing shipments declined 1.8 per cent in February after three months of strong growth. The main contributors to the decline were automobiles, fabricated metal products and electronics. But even with the February downturn, manufacturers' shipments are still 10.3-per-cent higher than a year ago.



StatsCan also reported that Canada's exports were down by 2.6 per cent in February to $32.3 billion, while imports declined 1.2 per cent. After four consecutive monthly increases, wholesale sales in Canada fell by 1.1 per cent, largely due to reduced demand for lumber and building materials.

The Imperial hot seat

Imperial Oil Ltd.'s annual meeting in Toronto was a mixed experience for president Bob Peterson. While he was able to announce sharply increased first-quarter profits—$269 million compared with $37 million last year—he had to field some tough talk from protesters challenging the company's environmental record. A small group from Citizens Against Smog tossed pennies at the stage, claiming that it would cost only one cent per share to reduce levels of sulphur in the company's gasoline. Imperial products have the highest sulphur levels in the country. Other protesters questioned the company's commitment to dealing with international treaties aimed at reducing the impact of global warming.

Wal-Mart union-free

The only unionized Wal-Mart store in North America has won its battle to get rid of organized labour. The Canadian Auto Workers dropped its claim to represent nearly 150 employees in Windsor, Ont., under a settlement overseen by the Ontario Labour Relations Board. Despite an overwhelming staff vote against unionization, the board had certified a union in 1997 on the grounds that Wal-Mart Canada Inc. used unfair tactics. Ontario's Conservative government later stripped the board of such powers.

A global online bank

U.S. brokerage Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc. and British-based banking group HSBC Holdings PLC teamed up to create what they called a "world first" on the Internet—an online bank and brokerage for wealthy clients outside the United States. The $1.5-billion, 50-50 joint venture will offer investing, banking and mortgage services to people, including Canadians, with accounts of $150,000 to $750,000.

Nortel buys again

High-tech giant Nortel Networks Corp. of Brampton, Ont., announced it will pay $580 million for Architel Systems Corp. of Toronto, which makes software for high-speed Internet service providers. It is the fifth acquisition for Nortel in the past five months.

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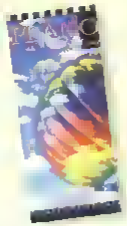


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Taste of TRAVEL USA

It seems only fitting that Taste of Travel's third edition in Maclean's Executive Edition features the favourite destination of Canadians — the United States of America.

For Canadians, the United States has always been a natural place to explore. Its proximity makes it easily accessible by car and today, with Open Skies, getting a flight to your favourite American destination is not only easy, it is also economical. And with the Canadian dollar gaining strength against the U.S. currency, Canadians are clearly intent on discovering America in earnest once again.

In this Taste of Travel advertising supplement we focus on the following destinations — New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Georgia, South Carolina, Maine and more — with articles that will give you an idea of what to expect on your visit.

But book early

The latest figures from the Conference Board of Canada and the U.S. Department of Commerce indicate that business is booming. In 1999 alone, Canadians spent $27.9 billion U.S. on travel to the United States and predictions are that will continue to increase in 2000. So enjoy this edition of Taste of Travel — a joint initiative between **Maclean's magazine** and **Canadian Travel Press** — as it provides you with a wonderful sampling of the U.S.A.

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Discovering America in Earnest Once Again

In this travel guide we take you from a short drive through the American Southwest to a colourful look into America's past, from the crashing surf of Maine to the gentle salt marshes and fishing fleets of Georgia. Our driving guides give you a taste of travel that takes you off the Interstate and into timeless towns and picturesque fishing villages, from the hills of New Mexico to the heart of Texas.

A century ago, when North American business leaders wanted to show pride in their wealth and success, they created art museums. Now, at the beginning of the 21st century, their descendants are building science centres and expanding exhibitions, designing golf courses and refurbishing memories of golden years.

Join us on this This Taste of Travel U.S.A. tour, capturing all the excitement for Canadians visiting their closest neighbours.

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Unless you touch the runway in a rare summer storm, you will step off the plane in Albuquerque to breathe crisp, dry air and squint at the clear azure skies that go along with an altitude of 2 000 metres (7 000 feet).

Once your car is rented, you could drive 100 km on I-25 north to Santa Fe, but why not head over to Tijeras and NM 14 to take the Turquoise Trail, a leisurely behind-the-mountain path to Santa Fe. The road connects the semi-ghost towns of Golden, Madrid and Cerrillos. The revived ghost town of Madrid is fun. Originally an old coal mining town, it has been rediscovered by artists and New Agers; think funky charm, crystals and South American clothing. Weekend jazz and blues concerts have become popular.



To Market: A Gallup Indian woman resplendent in her native costume, makes her way through market.

The adobe architecture of Santa Fe may still remind you of the military compounds that were the foundation of the Spanish colonial outpost established in 1607. The city's preservation of historic buildings and a zoning code that mandates the Santa Fe's distinctive Spanish-Pueblo style of architecture has resulted in one of the most intriguing environments in the nation. Even big-chain hotels in the area are wonderfully characterful.



Market Value: Tourists flock to Santa Fe for its fab food, art markets and fine dining.

PHOTOS CHRIS CORRIE

Absolutely the only way to explore is on foot. Start at the beautiful Santa Fe Plaza and simply wander between cafes, tapas bars and shops, delighting at the rich textures and curves of adobe and wood, the smell of woodsmoke drifting from chimneys, the muted colours against a turquoise sky. And don't forget - this is one of the country's largest art markets. grand homes, now art galleries, line ritzy Canyon Road.

Festival Santa Fe is a series of events running from June through to December, offering the best of American plays, opera, chamber music, and flamenco dancing, as well as feast days, wine festivals, markets. Yearly events include the 51st Annual Rodeo (June 21 to 24), the Northern Indian Pueblos Artist & Craftsman Show (July 15 to 16), and the largest juried Native American art show in the world, held at the Santa Fe Plaza. This year's dates are August 19 and 20.

The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum and shop is a popular destination, just one among 250 art galleries and 11 museums. Check exhibits at the Palace of the Governors (built in 1610) and the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture for historical perspectives.

For a one-day circular drive into the mountains, take the Jemez Mountain Trail, which starts on Hwy 502 west off Hwy 84 at Pojoaque Pueblo. First stop is the San Ildefonso Pueblo, where the art of pottery making was revitalized in the 20th century. The Pueblo's distinctive black-on-black style is world-famous, and there is a museum where you can buy pottery at the trading post. You can meet the artists or wander among cottonwoods. A fishing lake is stocked in the summer.

Take NM 4 to White Rock Overlook and a spectacular eagle's-eye view of the Rio Grande. Next stop west is Bandelier, where you can stroll past ancient cliff dwellings and kivas and climb ladders to step inside ancestral Pueblo ruins. Los Alamos, where two museums will pull you into the near-present with the story of the Manhattan Project and the creation of the world's first atomic bomb, is a side trip back onto Hwy 502.

Returning to NM 4, you will follow a gloriously scenic route through Valle Grande, a lush green valley that is the caldera of an ancient volcano, to Giuseqa, an ancient Towa ruin and 17th-century Spanish mission church. For a refresher, pause at the healing waters of Jemez Springs. The large Jemez Pueblo offers handmade arts, a history exhibit and a nature walk in a beautiful red rock setting. At San Ysidro take NM 44 south to Coronado Monument and State Park. I-25 will take you back to Santa Fe. ■

From Oklahoma City to Dallas

Oklahoma City came into life in the wild and woolly days of tent cities and wildcat wells. It staggered in the desolation of the Dust Bowl, and is now a bustling urban centre where shopping, restaurants and cultural events thrive under city lights. For photos that capture the city's past walk up Lincoln Avenue towards the Capital Complex and arrange the family around the oil derricks - they are the real thing - some of them still working. The place to be and be seen is the newly-renovated warehouse area Bricktown, a great area for hand-crafted beers and Tex-Mex food.



PHOTO FRED W. MARVEL

Channel Surfing: The Bricktown Canal in Oklahoma City is a popular, scenic site for tourists

You would clock about 300 km on the Interstate from Oklahoma City to Dallas, but this is lake country, sparkling with waterfalls, creeks, massive rivers, scenic vistas, friendly towns and some of the best bass fishing imaginable. Take the sideroads, take time to wander the parks and small towns, there is lots to see along the way.

Plan on making the drive south a slow one. By following Hwy 77 you will drive past the University of Oklahoma where the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History has just opened. The beautiful building now houses the largest collection of dinosaur artifacts outside the Smithsonian.

Continue on Hwy 77 into Davis and you will come to Turner Falls Park, site of a natural swimming hole fed by a waterfall. Nearby you will find Cedarvale Botanical Gardens where there is a restaurant overlooking the river. Arbuckle Wilderness is a great place for children who will love the dinosaur park, camel rides, water slide and amusement rides.

Slide east on Hwy 7 to see Sulphur, named for its sulphur and bromide springs once visited for their medicinal value. Sulphur Springs Inn was built in 1911, and is the only original bathhouse still standing. It is quite an experience to have a massage, relax in a sauna or soak in the hot and cool pools.

If you do not stop for the spa, at least visit the forests and cool waters of the Chickasaw National Recreation Area. Pull out a picnic basket beside the tumbling falls of Little Niagara, or treat yourself to a dip in a freshwater lake or a mineral spring. From here Hwy 177 will take you down to Hwy 199 and Ardmore, home to the Greater Southwest Historical Museum. Artifacts from 20 states offer a thought-provoking look at life from Indian Territory times to the 1930s.





Living Culture: Young folk dancers perform outside the Francis Cherry Art Gallery in Waco, Texas.



Smooth Sailing: Wind surfing is a popular way to [illegible] the Texas Gulf Coast [illegible] Padre Island.



Work of Art: The Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa, Oklahoma was once the Italian Renaissance-style villa of oil magnate Waite Phillips.

PHOTOS: FRED W. MARVEL



Water Therapy: [illegible] Davis, Oklahoma, is a 7.2-[illegible] fall in the Arbuckle Mountains.



Cowboy Chow: [illegible] are friendly in the Arbuckle Mountains.



Culture, U.S.A.: The Fort Worth Stockyards is a [illegible] experience.

Take Hwy 77 south and exit at Hwy 70 for Murray Resort Park with its 18-hole golf course, hiking and cycling trails, campsites, guest cottages and resort accommodations. It's all centred around Lake Murray, a spring-fed jewel on the edge of the Arbuckle Mountains. In the 1930s the lake was chosen for the governor's country retreat. Tucker Tower was built, but never used for its intended purpose. It is now a nature centre.

You can circle around the lake to the tower, then take Hwy 77 south to Hwy 32 into the town of Marietta and nearby Lake Texoma. The town's architectural centrepiece is the Love County Courthouse. The first courthouse built after statehood, it is topped with a clock dome. The Old Federal Court Building on Main Street is the county's oldest structure and now contains City Hall. The old county jail building now houses a military museum, and the former Santa Fe Depot is home to the Love County Pioneer Museum.

Make your way back to I-35 and over the Red River to discover a Texas of small towns with beautifully restored town squares, historic houses, lakes and quarter horse ranches.

Your first detour might be at Hwy 82 to explore Gainesville with its bricked square, historic homes and buildings.

For a heady glimpse of multimillion-dollar horse ranch country, head east 15 km south of Gainesville on Farm Road (FM) 922 to the small town of Tioga, then south on Hwy 377 for the best tour of spectacular ranches. Picturesque Lake Ray Roberts is on your right, and at Pilot Point you can turn west for a view of the lake, then take FM 2164 into Denton, where the domed County Courthouse is a real treasure. Remodelled back to its original glory, the somewhat Russian-looking building is worth a detour to the historic downtown square at Elm and Hickory.

Then it's I-35E out of Denton, towards the glittering towers of Dallas.

Dallas' supply of art galleries, theatres and concert halls is enormous. There are more than 160 museums, galleries and artistic attractions, and more than 110 live performances per night. The Dallas Museum of Art anchors the Arts District which includes the startling Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center.

You will find that the central business district is lively. Street life in the West End revolves around shops, restaurants, street mimes, buggy rides, music and a mix of old and new architecture.

The Neiman Marcus store at Commerce and Ervay Streets is the original store on its original site, a shoppers' Mecca, perhaps. For odd, unique and imaginative clothes, jewellery, home furnishings, artwork, dining clubs and live blues music you should go east, to Deep Ellum, a happening neighbourhood at night.

Incredibly, there is a Farmer's Market at the intersection of two freeways in downtown Dallas. The four-block open-air market is best visited early in the day for fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs for sale by some of the farmers who grew them.

On the other side of the freeway, Old City Park is a green oasis of relocated heritage homes against a background of skyscrapers. The Dallas County Heritage Society is responsible for saving several grand antebellum homes, an 1847 log house, churches and commercial buildings, as well as demonstrations of turn-of-the-century crafts and skills.

Fair Park is to the southeast of downtown off I-30, a complex with seven major museums, the Civic Garden Center, sports spectacles and concerts. Check what's happening at the Visitor Bureau, and go.

Set the adrenalin running at the Texas Sports Hall of Fame where more than 350 Texas sports heroes come to life. Film shows memorable moments in Texas college and professional sports. It is in the Metroplex area on the way to Fort Worth.

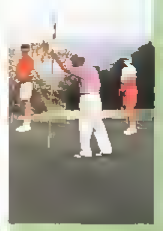
Fifty km west of Dallas you will find Cowtown, alias Fort Worth, famed for its Stockyards district. Each morning 15 Texas Longhorn cattle are corralled and driven to the Trinity River's west fork to graze, recalling the great cattle drives of the 19th century. Cowhands give visitors a presentation on the vital role the cattle industry played in early Fort Worth. In the cultural district are museums, the Will Rogers Memorial Center featuring year-round horse and cattle shows, Fort Worth Botanic Gardens and kilometres of paved jogging and biking trails along the Trinity River. ■

Extreme Golf in Texas

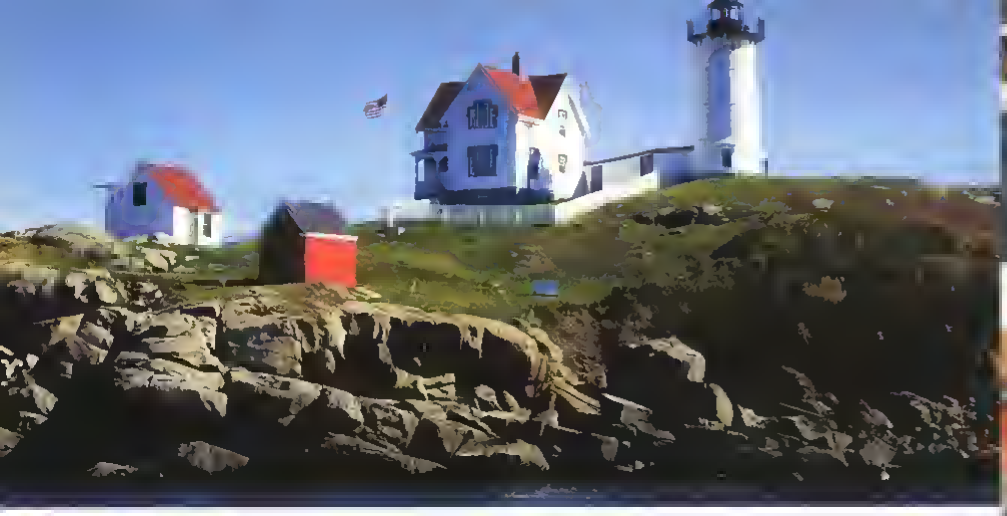
When it comes to golf, few states can match the quality and diversity Texas offers. The Lone Star State is blessed with a variety of courses from East Texas's lush manicured fairways to the sunny resorts and conference centres of South Texas and the Gulf Coast region. This year the site will host seven PGA tournaments.

Texas is a golfer's dream, and the dream has just turned to extreme fantasy in the imaginative form of two courses aimed squarely at the "been there, done that" brigade. Veteran golfer Arnold Palmer has partnered with Tour 18 Inc. to replicate 18 of golf's most famous holes and put them all into one course. They call the result a virtual Dream Team of golf holes.

Aerial photography and CAD technology have been used to reproduce golf holes that are uncanny homages to some of America's most storied golf holes.



The reproductions include Hilton Head's Harbour Town No. 18 par 4, Augusta's 'Amen [illegible], the Desert Inn No. 10 518-yard par 5 [illegible]'s 'Mickey Mouse bunker' hole from [illegible] Course. Then they have also copied Fort Worth's own Colonial Country Club [illegible]rd back nine is considered [illegible] front. If you survive to No. 18, [illegible] Resort and Country Club's [illegible], a 435-yard par 4, [illegible] are in Humble, 25 minutes [illegible] and Flower Mound [illegible] Worth.



The next thing to Canada is Maine

Maine is America off the beaten path and yet jutting as it does between New Brunswick and Quebec, it is wonderfully accessible to eastern Canada Driving from either Canadian province you will find yourself navigating over purple-hued mountains and between clear inland lakes Maine is the perfect place to disappear for a day in the cool woods go fishing, take a hike or just float around in fresh water

For an inland drive south you would take I-95 south and angle across Maine between Bangor and Portland but salt air will be your companion if you take U S Route 1 to dip and trip along the moody Atlantic coast from Bangor down to Brunswick Pick up driving maps at tourist offices in communities along your route

You will start with the stunning Greek revival homes of Belfast and Searsport then touch base with the past in the Penobscot Marine Museum, and its vast collection of artifacts from Maine's whaling industry Just remember to save time for the shops and flea markets in the area known as Maine's antiques capital

Check for sightings of wooden sailboats called Windjammers in Penobscot Bay as you drive towards the picturesque harbour of Camden Once there drink in a breathtaking view of the mountains meeting the sea

From here you will skirt uncounted inlets and rocky headlands that can be glimpsed or explored by taking side trips from U S 1 as it heads south, enjoying as you go a world of quiet Maine villages and surf crashing on rocky shores Your last side trip should be down sideroad 27 to Boothbay Harbor one of Maine's busiest resort towns with crooked streets small shops and a frisky nightlife It is a good place to hire a boat for seal watching deep-sea fishing trips and sailing excursions

In Bath look to the Maine Maritime Museum for an outstanding collection of seafaring memorabilia From here the last leg of U S 1 takes you on to Brunswick and I-95 into Portland Or perhaps detour to Freeport known (thanks to an 1820 independence treaty) as the birthplace of Maine It is also the birthplace (1912) of the L.L Bean clothing empire whose flagship store has stood on the same corner for 86 years And while you are in town stop by the Freeport Factory Store and the new L L Kids Store



In Portland you will discover the charms of an active seaport with the pleasures of art dining out and a fabulous new indoors farmers' market hawking all the fresh produce of Maine from buffalo meat and potatoes to lobster and fresh fillets

A few blocks from the market between Commercial Street and Congress you will find the old port, a neighbourhood of narrow cobblestoned streets lined with 19th-century brick and granite buildings A departure point for fishing boats and passenger ferries it is atmospheric all year round and known for its restaurants boutiques specialty stores and brew pubs From here it is just a walk to the art district with several galleries the Maine College of Art and the Children's Museum of Maine There interactive exhibits simulate Maine landscapes including a lobster boat at a fishing pier, a soaring pine tree for climbing and a darkly scary bear's den ■



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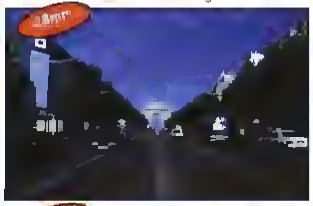
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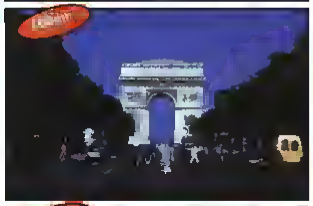
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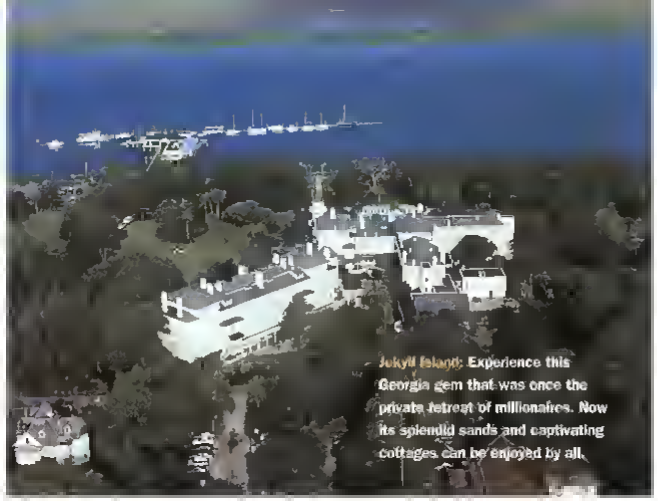
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From South Carolina to Georgia

US Highway 17 moseys 400 km south along the stretch of Atlantic coast between Charleston, S.C., to St. Marys, Ga. It is a fascinating route to follow and the fabulously friendly tourist offices will give you lots of tourist information.

This coastal land is known locally as the low country, a flat landscape framed by peninsulas and beaches, with forests of palmettos and roads lined by moss-laden live oaks. Boating and saltwater fishing havens abound, as do haunts of birdlife — particularly such sanctuaries as Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge near Charleston. Stop to enjoy the calm waters of salt-marsh creeks or the vast acres of lush marsh grass and you will hear the "kee-kee-weeing" of an oyster catcher, the lazy "kraaannk" of the blue heron.

On your southern drive do take Hwy 21 off Hwy 17 into Beaufort. Established in 1710, Beaufort was prosperous when Sea Island cotton was a money crop. Today's legacy is an abundance of lavishly elegant houses built by landowners and merchants. Stop before you leave at the waterfront park that runs along the Beaufort River seawall. Enjoy the promenade, a crafts market, gardens and a marina. Fifteen km southeast on Hwy 21 is St. Helena Island, site of the South's first school for freed slaves.

From here you make your way into Georgia's leading seaport, Savannah. Dating back to 1733, Savannah bloomed as one of the continent's first planned cities, with garden squares and blocked-off buildings.

You must walk to appreciate this beautiful city. Stroll the Historic District, the cobblestoned Riverfront area, the centuries-old cotton warehouses along the esplanade, the City Market. Savannah has a unique city plan: 21 lush green garden squares, cooling fountains, evergreen shade trees and more than 1,700 privately restored buildings for homes and businesses. All are architecturally significant and all within a 5.7 sq-km area. Discover the wonderful mix of American architectural styles for yourself: Federal, Regency, Italianate, Greek and Roman Revival. Delve into American history in the many museums and beautiful old churches. Peek through private garden gates to glimpse southern lifestyles, or for a better look, ask about the annual Garden Club of Savannah tours for the public. This year's Hidden Gardens tour is April 14 and 15.

Savannah offers, too, the opportunity to stay in historic inns and other personalized guest accommodations ranging from garden apartments to carriage houses and small European-style hotels.

And this will definitely be the place to be on the first weekend in August when several tall ships will sail majestically into Savannah's bustling international harbour.

A half-hour's drive out of Savannah on Hwy 80 is the little beachfront colony of Tybee Island. Here you can cool your feet in sand and sea as you breathe the soft summer breezes. Tybee's salt marshes and sand dunes have flown the flags of pirates and Spaniards, English and French and the Confederate States of America, but now kids rule with dolphin tours, sea kayaking and a fort to explore. Fort Pulaski on the northern shore has been restored and offers historical demonstrations. You can also climb the Tybee Lighthouse which dates to 1736.

Back on Hwy 17 and southbound once more, you can make side trips to Richmond Hill State Park or to catch a view of the Golden Isles, a string of lush subtropical barrier islands meandering lazily down Georgia's Atlantic coast. Fleets of shrimp boats troll up and down the coastal waterways, and dockside vendors sell directly off the boats. Look for oysters and net crabs along the shoreline. At Brunswick there is a bridge to Jekyll Island, one of only three islands with road access. Bought by the state in 1947, Jekyll was once the private retreat of millionaires, but now its splendid sands can be enjoyed by all, and you can visit the fabulous "cottages" built by the millionaires who came to play golf and tennis, and of course, to socialize. ■



Georgia On Our Minds



Savannah Style

on the road

Where to Stay

Value-conscious, quality-minded travellers look for Hampton Inns along their route. Frequent guests praise their consistent quality and abundant breakfasts, their terrific family and group pricing policy. There's a coffee maker, data port, iron and ironing board in all rooms. Since 1995 the chain has been introducing suite hotels, Hampton Inn & Suites, which in addition to their single rooms, offer two-room suites with fully equipped kitchens and laundry facilities, lifesavers for family trips or longer stays. As well as being in high-traffic areas, many Hampton hotels are in resort communities, downtown business districts and historic areas. Most locations have a pool and exercise facilities.

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Inside the world of 'Mafiaboy'

Police charge a 15-year-old Montreal youth in the wave of hacker attacks on major Web sites



Roussel (top, centre) announces the arrest in Montreal. 'he isn't what you would call a genius in the field'

By Robert Scott

After two months of relative peace at her Web site in Indianapolis where she follows the activities of computer hackers, 34-year-old Rachelle Magliolo sat down at her screen on April 13 and got a shock. "BITCH IM BACK!" blared the poorly spelled message posted on her Web site bulletin board. "YOU LITTLE F—ING SLUT, YOU ACTUALLY THOUGHT THEY CAUGHT ME? WHEN IM BACK THIS PAGE ISNT GONNA EXSIST ANYMORE." It was signed by her longtime nemesis—Mafiaboy, the nickname for a Canadian teenager suspected in several devastating hacker attacks on major commercial Web sites in the United States and Canada in February

"I couldn't believe it, that he hadn't been caught," says Magliolo, the "hacker mom" who outlined Mafiaboy's tactics for *Maclean's* in March But fortunately for Magliolo, the young hacker wasn't able to make good on his threat. Less than 48 hours later, a 15-year-old boy alleged to be Mafiaboy was under arrest in Montreal, having been tracked through cyberspace by a team of FBI and RCMP investigators to his home in an affluent west-island suburb Last week, the boy, whose identity is protected under the Young Offenders Act, was charged with two counts of "data mischief," and faces up to two years in detention if convicted.



Magliolo a vitriolic attack by Mafiaboy

The teen was accused only of attacking CNN.com, the news site run by the Atlanta-based Cable News Network Police said they were still investigating a host of other assaults in February on such sites as Yahoo!, eBay, Amazon.com and one run by record retailer HMV Canada Inc. The sites were shut down for hours at a time, which some analysts claim cost millions of dollars in lost business The attack method is known as Denial of Service, or DoS. In the assault on CNN, dozens of vulnerable computers were electronically hijacked around the Internet and used to bombard the news site all at once with "packets" of information, causing the site's host servers to overload and refuse access to users.

Yet despite the allegations against Mafiaboy, police contend the arrested teen is no great computer whiz. "He isn't what you would call a genius in the field," said Insp Yves Roussel, who is responsible for the RCMP's commercial crime section in Montreal Friends and neighbours described the boy as quiet, intelligent, and athletic He lives on a treelined street with his father; his parents are separated.

According to Magliolo, who has known the online Mafiaboy for about two years, he is typical of a growing legion of "malicious packet kiddies" who frequent the large online chat network EFNet Hetself the mother of a 15-year-old, Magliolo says attacking Web sites is a frequent activity by teenagers on EFNet She, too, has been a victim in retaliation for Magliolo posting the text of a chat linking Mafiaboy to the Web attacks, he bombarded her site using methods similar to those employed against CNN.

More like vandals than programmers, packet kiddies take advantage of software written by more sophisticated hackers to mount their attacks. "They are dumb kids who use programs written by people like Mixter [a well-known German hacker and security expert]," says Joe Abrams, an 18-year-old Canadian student who frequents EFNet

under the name Metaray. "It's all stuff they get off hacker pages like Packet-Storm."

Nonetheless, Abrams says the online Mafiaboy was certainly capable of mounting a large-scale DoS attack. "It's not hard to do at all, one only needs a lot of spare time," says Abrams. "I talked to him a few times, just about stupid stuff. I knew that he was from Canada. I know he had a DoS network setup, but I also know of other people who are capable and I'm sure there were a bunch of copycats."

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for links

While Mafiaboy's "packet power" was enough to get him invited into an EFNet hacking group known as TNT/Phorce (Magliolo is a former member), security experts say the person who attacked CNN was relatively amateurish and easy to trace. "He left muddy footprints all over the place—he was not particularly bright," says Kevin Schmidt, a network programmer at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Schmidt discovered that one of the university's computers had been used in the attack on CNN. "If someone was even slightly meticulous, they would have cleaned up their tracks," says Schmidt. Evidence of the intrusion led investigators to a handful of other computers in the United States and Canada, and by backtracking through server logs, eventually to the house in Montreal. In addition, Mafiaboy bragged online about his involvement in some attacks.





Linda Spillers/AP

Reno, trumpeting a milestone in global law enforcement, although other, more sophisticated hackers were also likely involved

While U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno trumpeted the Mafiaboy arrest as a milestone in global law enforcement, security experts maintain that other, more sophisticated hackers were likely involved, and may be much more difficult to track down. The attack on Yahoo! was technically a lot more sophisticated, says Joel de la Garza, a consultant with Palo Alto, Calif.-based Securify Inc., and points to the involvement of someone more highly skilled.

For a simple packet kiddie, though, Mafiaboy has certainly kept the authorities busy. Over the past two months, the RCMP's entire Montreal team of six computer-crime investigators worked full-time on the case. "There is literally a ton of information to scrutinize," said Roussel of the ongoing investigation.

In a bizarre twist, the accused boy's father was arrested by authorities last week on charges completely unrelated to hacking. Investigators, who had tapped the family phone lines to eavesdrop on the teen, say they overheard the 45-year-old company president allegedly planning an assault on a business associate. "We felt that before someone got hurt really badly, we had to intervene," said Montreal police Det.-Lt. Lenny Lechman.

From now until his hearing in June, the accused teen is banned from connecting to the Internet, from using a computer except under supervision at school, and from hanging out with three computer-wise friends. To Magliolo's relief, it's unlikely Mafiaboy will return to EFNet yelling, "Bitch, I'm back!" anytime soon.

With Brenda Branswell in Montreal





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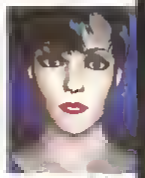
The war for your palm

The U.S. justice department may not agree, but Microsoft really doesn't dominate everything. When the world's biggest software company launched its Windows CE operating system for handheld computers four years ago, analysts and the public lambasted it for being too slow and awkward. Moreover, the digital organizers made by Palm, the industry's leader with 75 per cent of the global market, were smaller and more elegant than those of Microsoft's hardware partners. In January, Microsoft chairman Bill Gates vowed that all that would soon change. And last week, with the introduction of the company's third version of Windows CE, now dubbed Pocket PC, the company and its partner manufacturers—Hewlett-Packard Co., Compaq Computer Corp. and Casio Inc.—staked a pretty strong claim. They unveiled three thinner, faster and expandable hand-held computers with colour screens that seem much friendlier.

Commands are now executed with a single tap of the screen—it used to take two, which users found annoying and far from intuitive. Pocket PC devices can read e-mail attachments, launch a Web browser, display digital books, and play MP3 audio files and video clips. There are also the old standbys: calendar, phone lists, scheduling reminders. Depending on features, the three manufacturers' Pocket PCs range from $499 to $899 (Palm's colour model: $679). Palm's system still boasts 5,000 applications to Microsoft's 1,000, but many analysts think the leader now has a powerful competitor.

Watch out, Lloyd

She's part Lara Croft, animated heroine from the wildly popular Tomb Raider video-game series, and part Diane Sawyer, TV magazine newscaster. To her Internet fans, she's simply Ananova, the world's first virtual newscaster. Created by Britain's Press Association, Ananova made her debut online with the words "Hello, world. Here is the news—and this time it's personal." Her creators say her text-to-speech voice system and coordinated lip movements will revolutionize news delivery. Her detractors say they will stick with their television sets. The 21st century's answer to Max Headroom can be found at *www.ananova.com*



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How We THINK

CANADA'S STEVEN PINKER CHALLENGES THE ACCEPTED WISDOM OF HOW THE HUMAN BRAIN WORKS



Pinker with a model showing the interior of the brain: an expert in standing his ground in academic food fights

By Robert Sheppard

For hours at a time, psychologist Steven Pinker subjects some of America's brightest university students to a battery of real and imaginary words. What is the past tense of "slace" or "plip"? he asks. What is the past of to "see" with your eyes, or to "saw" with a saw? See-saw-sawed. Confronted with something as mighty as a word, the human mind takes all of a quarter of a second to store it (for most people in the rear of the left hemisphere) and then ship it out for processing to word-fetching memory banks or the rule-making generating stations in different parts of the brain. Asked to deal with made-up words, the mind shows an equal dexterity in drawing meaning and grammatical correctness, barely missing a beat. Pinker can see this happen on a computer screen: his subjects are contemplating the peculiarities of the English language while the magnetic activity in their brains is being measured to within one-hundredth of a second. The results of all these mental gymnastics send brightly coloured tracers slicing across a computerized map of the brain in a real-life game of Pong.

From his perch as a professor of cognitive neuroscience at the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Montreal-born Pinker has a touching faith in the brainwaves of 19-year-olds. "As a scientist, I have been trained not to trust anything unless it can be verified in the lab on the brains of rats or sophomores," he says with the dry wit that has made him a sought-after guest at high-table seminars, on *The New York Times* commentary pages, even on TV talk shows. But the 45-year-old Pinker is more than just a walking one-liner or even the latest academic superstar. He is at the epicentre of a growing group of mostly youngish researchers in different fields who are using the latest imaging technology to map the biology of the brain and, with the audacity that only science can muster, dare to explain how the mind works.

Canadian scientists have long been at the forefront of research into the brain, partly because of the pioneering efforts at the Montreal Neurological Institute during the 1940s and '50s. Alan Evans, a top MNI researcher, is part of an international team that recently showed the brain developing and reorganizing its real estate for much longer in life than was previously thought. In Hamilton, McMaster University psychiatrist and neuroscientist Sandra Witelson, like Pinker a graduate of Montreal's McGill University, made waves last year for revealing the tantalizing structural mysteries of Einstein's brain.

But respected as these and many other researchers are in their own fields, none has achieved Pinker's profile. Maybe it is because of the rock-star looks that can seem a tad out of place in today's academia. More likely it is because of a wide-ranging intellect that makes Pinker that rare breed—a serious scientist with a common touch and a genius for confronting orthodoxy and standing his ground in academic food fights.

In person and on a lecture stage, Pinker is endearingly Canadian: polite, soft-spoken, attentive to what others say. His strength is that he doesn't just study language, he wields it like a sword, cutting through pomp and political correctness to explain everything from the origins of grammar to the evolutionary underpinnings of guilt, pornography, infanticide, even humour.

But there is another side to Pinker, too: quirky, nonconformist, competitive, perhaps to be expected for a big-brained primate who has spent the past 23 years in Boston's Harvard-MIT nexus, a notorious bastion of catty intellectualism. His very public feud about the evolutionary basis of the mind with Harvard paleo-biologist Stephen Jay Gould—another elegant popularizer—was part of a debate that went on for weeks in *The New York Review of Books* before ending up on the front page of *The Boston Globe*. There is also a hint here of the angry young man as scientist. "Every idea in the book may turn out to be wrong," Pinker wrote in the introduction to his 1997 best-seller, *How the Mind Works*. "But that would be progress, because our old ideas were too vapid to be wrong."

In his corner office at the fringe of MIT's sprawling, neoclassical-style campus across the Charles River from a tony residential section of Boston, Pinker has an ideal spot to absorb all that modern science has to offer on the brain, from linguists like the celebrated Noam Chomsky, a couple of buildings away, to one of the world's largest centres for the study of robots and artificial intelligence. "Language is my work," he says. "The rest"—referring to his theories of how the mind works—"is kind of a hobby." It is a "hobby," mind you, that nearly earned him the Pulitzer Prize two years ago and has him dangerously close to becoming a cultural icon, the New Age guru for the machinery of thought.

His three most recent books on language and the mind have been popular best-sellers. Top British and American newspapers and magazines have published admiring profiles. Not bad for a studious Montrealer, the eldest of three siblings, all professionals, who describes himself as an "erstwhile '60s radical" come late to the party. Before McGill, he went to Montreal's celebrated "hippie college," Dawson, from 1971

A giant computer, the mind is preprogrammed with many of humanity's early hunter-gatherer quirks

to 1973. 'But I was hardly a hippie," he says. Pinker didn't do drugs or drink but tripped out on the excitement of exploring what made people tick. "When I discovered you could bring someone into a lab and ask questions about human behaviour," he says, "that's when everything fell into place." And he's been grooving on that ever since.

Is the human mind a clean slate on which is writ the sum total of an individual's life—upbringing, schooling, personal relationships, the myriad cultural refinements that flow from things like television or good books? That may be the dominant view. Or is it, in effect, a giant computer, preprogrammed in large measure from humanity's earliest endeavours—and with a good number of those early hunter-gatherer quirks still intact? Pinker thinks that's the case, though he is quick to note that this does not mean human behaviour is preprogrammed as well. Scientists may yet find a specific location in the brain for jealousy or adultery. But those behaviours will be played out "among many mental modules," Pinker says, not to mention the chessboard of other people's behaviour and expectations.



Witelson with parts from her collection of 65 brains: each one is different, but Albert Einstein's was truly unique

"Now, for more and more things that you and I actually talk about in conversation, we are starting to find a home in the brain," says Pinker. He would include concepts like social intelligence (the ability to impute motive and desires to other people), a sense of justice, and romantic love as being hard-wired in large measure in the brain through hundreds of thousands of years of evolution. Some scientists claim to have located a brain site for humanity's moral compass. (It's in the ridge of grey matter just behind the eyeballs. The sociopath's brain would have a shrunken version.) Want to know why teenagers won't do their term projects until the very last minute? According to some neuroscientists, it is because their frontal cortex, the place for future-based decision-making, is still being formed.

These beliefs are not universally held. Critics wonder if Pinker and other researchers are being seduced by a technology that reveals biological responses that may have nothing to do with the questions being asked. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), one of the new, relatively unobtrusive techniques for taking pictures of the brain's activity, is notoriously complex. Researchers find that repeating a test does not always produce the same response each time: the mind, it seems, likes novelty.

Still, the mere fact that researchers at scores of centres around the world are fixing similar cognitive functions in well documented locations suggests very strongly that the human brain is built in a particular way. And regardless of the academic quarrelling, there is no disputing that a decade of increasingly sophisticated examination has produced a concept of the brain, especially regarding such key areas as memory, development, gender differences, language and emotion.

McGill's MNI, for example, recently won a $22-million grant to establish the world's first neuroanatomy atlas for children. It will use data from eight hospitals and research centres in North America to correlate brain development with behaviour. "Within 10 to 15 years, there is going to be a huge amount of evidence setting out the biological basis for variations in behaviour," says McMaster's Witelson. "That's where the field is going."

That's where Pinker is heading as well. *How the Mind Works* is an ambitious, 660-page tome that seeks to explain everything from artificial intelligence to hotheadedness. His latest offering, *Words and Rules*, is ostensibly about the quirky nature of regular and irregular verbs in the English language. But in Pinker's hands, the subject becomes much more—a way of understanding the double-barrelled approach with which the mind seems to process information.

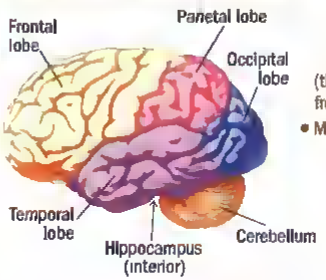
Other scientists are finding this, too, notably Michael Petrides at McGill. He argues there are (at least) two distinct levels, both in the prefrontal cortex, for processing thought. And they are not based on the thing that is being processed, whether it is a place or an object, but on the abstractness of the thought itself. For Pinker, language is made up of both memory for sounds and symbols, and instinctual, built-in rules that generate grammar and meaning. The two processes appear to stem from different places in the brain and, Pinker suggests, may be a model for how the mind deals with other important cognitive functions.

It is a view that has reignited the nature versus nurture debate. It sees the human brain as a system of organs that has evolved to include specialized functions, with their own software, to deal with some of the basic imperatives of life: language, reproduction, kinship, social responsibilities, fear and emotion, an awareness of place. Complicated ideas are built out of simple ones, just as complex sentences are built from simple rules and sounds.

Some of the brain's software—say, sexual jealousy or a disgust at eating insects—may be out of date, left over from life on the African plains eons ago. But it may still play a part in how we live our lives or, in some instances, in how we try to heal the brain from injury or psychiatric disorder. Pinker, who quotes extensively from the work of evolutionary

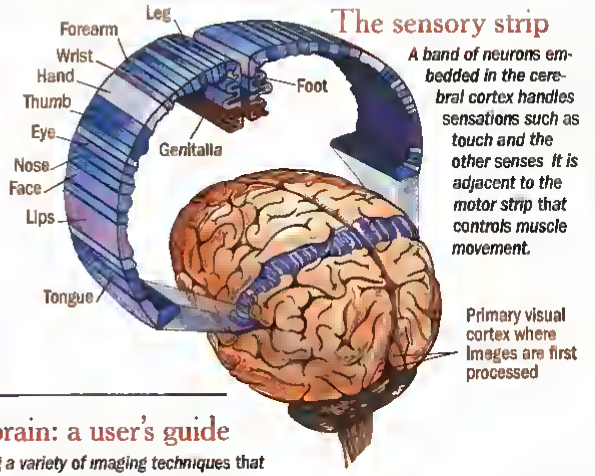
Where things happen

Laughter, depression, math skills, intuition, problem-solving, geography, grammar, face memory, language skills. Scientists are locating the sites in the brain for all those functions and more with increasing levels of sophistication. They are confident they know where the impetus for voluntary movement—shaking hands, for instance—takes place. And where the ability to read braille and understand sign language is stored. A team of researchers at the Montreal Neurological Institute recently isolated a region that responds to the human voice, whether speaking, coughing or humming—distinct from the region that responds to other sounds. Faces are remembered in a particular part of the brain, other things are handled elsewhere. And when you chuckle at a punch line, it's the area just behind the right eyeball that got the joke.



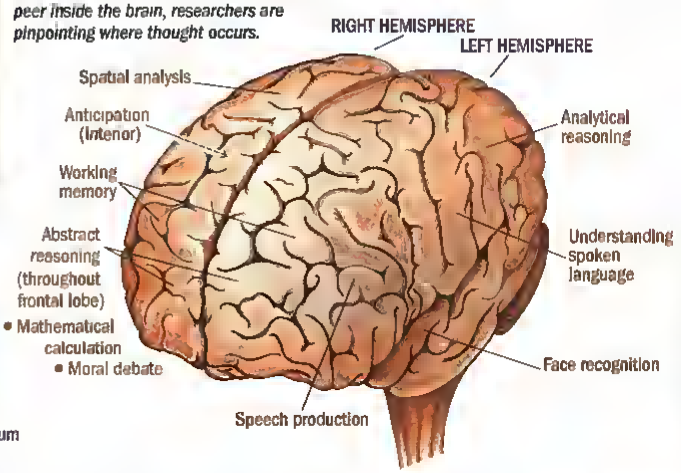
The sensory strip

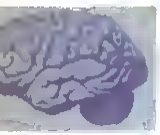
A band of neurons embedded in the cerebral cortex handles sensations such as touch and the other senses. It is adjacent to the motor strip that controls muscle movement.



The brain: a user's guide

Employing a variety of imaging techniques that peer inside the brain, researchers are pinpointing where thought occurs.





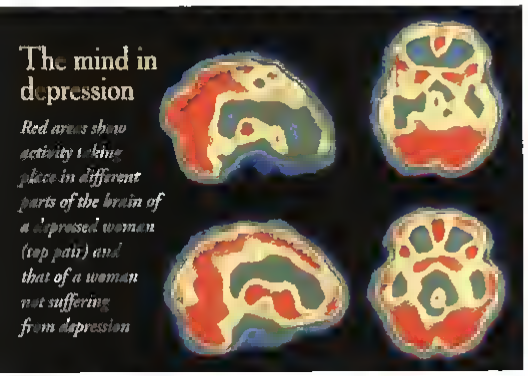
During sadness or depression, the ancient limbic system prevails while the thinking parts shut down

psychologists, nonetheless says it is naive to think the modern mind works simply according to evolutionary dictates. Rather than nature *versus* nurture, he says, it is better to think of the brain as a biological machine that combines both—constantly, maybe even in the nanosecond it takes to fire a neuron—in a kind of see-saw, slip-"slace" battle between the new and the genetically acquired.

MOOD AND THE MIND

Helen Mayberg makes people sad. An otherwise cheery and polite neurologist at the Rotman Research Institute in Totonto, Mayberg is unapologetic about what she does: "If you take normal, healthy people and ask them to read something they've written about a traumatic event in their lives, within four minutes they become tearful." And within that period of time, the brain undergoes a remarkable transformation.

Emotion is among the least studied of cognitive functions. But modern imaging research is starting to show two distinct patterns. One is that the brain biology of people experiencing transient sadness—such as Mayberg's test patients—is similar to that of others with deep-seated depression. That suggests that sadness and depression have much in common and



that some minds just aren't able to switch out of that stare. The other pattern is that intense emotion sets up a tug of war between the ancient limbic system and the more modern cortex, especially the frontal lobes where thinking and planning take precedence. As sadness or depression progresses, the limbic system goes into overdrive, firing its neurons while the thinking part shuts down. "The brain may be forced to pick and choose," says Mayberg. "You can't sneeze and keep your eyes open at the same time. That's hard-wired. Maybe it's the same with emotion." Depressed people, she says, have tremendous difficulty concentrating even on ordinary tasks. Healthy people can snap out of sadness as the thinking part of the brain fights back.

Some suggest that emotion evolved in the first place because of a need to back up promises and threats: the intellect ceding partial control to the passions. Who will believe the threat of deadline unless an editor is willing to throw a tantrum now and then? Fear seems to set up a mental battle between the quick-response and the more analytical mechanisms in the brain. And fear may in fact be several emotions. Phobias about physical things or social scrutiny respond to different drugs, suggesting they belong to different neural networks.

HOW MEMORY WORKS

The good news is that memory is cached in many more parts of the brain than was previously thought. Researchers are also finding at least some capacity for the mind to reorganize itself and relearn important functions after stroke or injury. The bad news: you still can't tell your brain to remember something on command. "Intention itself is a relatively feeble method of committing a name or a fact to memory," laughs the University of Toronto's Endel Tulving, at 73 the grandfather of memory research in this country. The brain, it seems, has its own rationale for deciding what should be remembered and what shouldn't. Some of it may be purely chemical: Princeton University scientist Joe Tsien has made a "smarter" mouse by adding a chemical receptor to its genetic makeup to strengthen the synapses, the sites where two nerve cells touch. The result: the mouse has a better memory for fear and reward.

Ten years ago, scientists felt that almost all memory was situated in the hippocampus, a seahorse-shaped organ embedded in the centre of the brain. Now, because of brain imaging techniques, they are seeing the machinery of thought operate in a much more far-flung manner. Imaging shows the brain works harder—has more active areas—when processing words than when dealing with visual images, even though visual scenes are by far more easily remembered.

Tulving says there are probably at least five memory systems, each with its own properties and processes. Short-term or working memory is located in the frontal cortex behind the forehead. It is the part of the brain that enables us to follow conversations, to remember telephone numbers (on a good day) and, some say, to act as a clearinghouse for decision-making—sending sensory information to other parts of the brain for deeper cogitation. New research is showing that working memory has its own specific brain chemistry.



Rick Chard for Maclean's

Mayberg with patient and MRI, watching the brain as emotions switch from happiness to sadness

Long-term memory would include procedural memory (how to ride a bike, type or speak), priming memory (recognizing objects and words), semantic memory (general knowledge of the world through books, television and common experiences like standing in the rain to know it's wet), and episodic memory (direct personal experiences). Of these, Tulving says, only episodic has to do with the past and fits the common notion of memory being dredged up or being "remembered." The others are more a biological process of action and reaction: a face triggers a name, which triggers a complex set of greetings and interaction, some of which—if the brain decides it's relevant—gets stored for future use.

SIZE AND INTELLIGENCE

Sandra Witelson, a demure woman who has held the preserved brain of Albert Einstein in her hands and studied it for science, takes a moment to ponder whether people with larger brains are smarter. "That *may* be the case," the McMaster neuroscientist says cautiously. But more important than overall size is structure, or the size of specific regions—Einstein's brain being a case in point. The brain of the man who upended 300 years of scientific tradition is of average male size, not out of line with any of the 64 other brains in Witelson's eclectic collection. But it had two unusual characteristics. One is that the parietal lobes, the grey matter just back of the ears where problem-solving and visualization occur, are about a centimetre—or 15 per cent—wider than a standard brain's. The other is that Einstein's Sylvian fissure, the crevice that flows through the area in the brain servicing mathematical reasoning and visualization, has a noticeably unique route along the surface, leaving these two areas much more densely packed together. "Every brain is different just like every face is different," says Witelson. "But we have never seen *anything* like this before."

Einstein's rerouted fissure may be a developmental quirk that occurred at birth. Or it may be a genetic or environmental twist that will eventually show up in other individuals with highly developed spatial skills. Witelson is eager to test that hypothesis. Brain imaging is starting to pick up other features that are unique to certain individuals—an enlargement of the auditory cortex in those with perfect pitch, for example—and is continuing to define the structural differences between the sexes.

Broadly speaking, the brain is divided into two hemispheres, with language skills located primarily in the left, and spatial skills in the right. Many studies have shown that women's language skills are more equally distributed between the two halves—a distinct advantage if stroke or injury affects the left hemisphere. And recent studies are showing that the differences in the brains of men and women extend right down to the cellular and chemical level, even to the way cells in parts of the cortex are packed and organized.

In March, a German team using brain-imaging techniques reported that men escaped a virtual-reality maze much faster than women—in an average of two minutes and 22 seconds compared with three minutes and 16 seconds. More intriguing, perhaps, they discovered that the sexes often used different areas of the brain to navigate: men relied on the left hippocampus, a memory region that specializes in spatial tasks, women tended to use more of the parietal and prefrontal areas, which are linked to visual clues and reasoning. Oddly, perhaps, the hippocampus in women tends to be larger, a refinement that may explain why women suffer less memory loss with Alzheimer's disease.

Men, however, have a larger corpus callosum, the neural pathway that links the two hemispheres. "The research is suggesting that the relationship between anatomy and cognition is different in each sex," says Witelson. "It is like two different automobiles. Each has a motor, a steering mechanism and brakes. But one is a Volvo and the other is a Lexus—and I'm not for an instant implying which sex is which."

THE MATURING BRAIN

In the first three years of life, the human brain is a veritable factory of neural development. Trillions of synaptic circuits that will last a lifetime are being formed. Just to grow the brain, young children use twice as much energy in their heads as adults, who carry about all the cares of the world. But scientists are now discovering that the brain can grow and reorganize itself, within limits, past puberty and possibly well into adulthood, depending on the demands put on it. A British study released in March showed that the brains of cab drivers ranging in age from 32 to 62 had experienced a "relative redistribution of grey matter" in the memory-focusing hippocampus. The researchers attributed the change to



In teenagers, the site where cool-headed decision-making takes place is still trying to get its act together

having to learn to navigate the labyrinthine streets of London.

"Simply put, the brain is a riot of functional changes," says the MNI's Evans. What's more, the maturing brain, awash in distinct stages of chemical and hormonal development, is like nature's wild garden: the grey matter grows more synapses than it needs, then spends part of its development "pruning" or leaving aside areas that are not put to use.

Between 6 and 15 are the peak language years when the left (language) hemisphere fills out. Some scientists believe the window shuts at about 11 or 12, at the onset of puberty, when learning new languages becomes much more difficult. Studies of children with damaged left hemispheres show that their language skills can be reorganized, within limits, on the right side before puberty; after that the right hemisphere has pretty well settled into a different way of ordering its world.



An informal Toronto playgroup. Pinker says a language logic developed through evolution lets children create words they have never heard spoken

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The brains of teenagers are definitely a work in progress. Hormones push the limbic system, where raw emotion is seated, into overdrive. At the same time, the frontal cortex, where cool-headed decision-making takes place, is still trying to get its act together. This back and forth may explain why teenagers can't seem to choose between talking on the phone or doing their homework when a term paper looms, and why social situations and insults become so important they are still sorting out the social signals. One study showed adults and teenagers images of faces contorted in fear. All the adults recognized the emotion; many teens didn't. Scans also showed the adults and teens used different areas of their brains during the experiment.

THE LANGUAGE INSTINCT

When an almost three-year-old says, "I *breaked* the window,' she is saying what all kids do at that age. "Everyone," says Steven Pinker, "without fail." And there's the rub. Children do not hear a verb like that from their parents—they deduce them, says Pinker, from rules that follow a logic buried in their brains from time immemorial. That logic—a language instinct akin to learning how to walk—allows them to hear a few thousand sentences, then produce an almost unlimited number of their own. Children soak up language "not quite like a sponge," says Pinker. There is a lot of symbol crunching involved, a lot of deduction. Some linguists argue that instinctual rules are the basis of all language. Others say there are no rules, just patterns of association that children pick up on. Pinker says both apply.

Irregular verbs such as to be, to go or to do (there are 164 in English) were once generated by rules that have been bastardized over the ages. Now, they must be remembered. Imaging research shows different parts of the brain light up for rule-based regular words as opposed to memorized irregular ones. Unfortunately for some researchers, the areas in use vary from study to study. But illness offers a better clue. Patients in the early stages of Alzheimer's have trouble remembering words, but can still speak in fluent, mostly grammatical sentences; people with Parkinson's disease, on the other hand, have the opposite tendency—an indication of two distinct pathways in the brain.

It is possible that instinctual rules evolved—they can be found in every language, Pinker believes—only for language. But perhaps they also evolved to help humans think in broad categories. Someone can be "grandmotherly" without ever having borne children; "game" can mean anything from solitaire to hockey. Thought is not sifting, at incredible speeds, through a mental file cabinet of stereotypes. Nor is conversation. They occur *naturally*, by deduction, by prediction, by cranking through a chain of implications where one notion triggers another. And they occur by reading the subtle clues that humans give off, whether it is in the face, the tone of voice or the curious inflections at the end of sentences that can vary from culture to culture. That, says Pinker, is how the mind works. ■

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A five-tonne tool for BRAIN SURGERY

By Brian Bergman in Calgary

On Jan. 6, 1996, a six-year-old dog named Kayla made medical history. Having suffered a seizure, she became the first animal to undergo brain surgery with the aid of a unique mobile magnetic resonance imaging system at the National Research Council Institute of Biodiagnostics in Winnipeg. The massive MRI, which moves in to take pictures of the brain while an operation is in progress, helped neurosurgeon Garnette Sutherland pinpoint a tumour and ensure he removed all of it. Three months later, Sutherland, who has spearheaded the development of the world's first mobile intra-operative MRI, received a card from the dog's grateful owners. Under a picture of the white-haired Kayla ran the inscription: "Hanging in there, feeling great. Thanks for life."

Two years ago, Sutherland started using the MRI, now housed at Calgary's Foothills hospital where he is director of neurosurgery, on human patients. Since then, it has been used in more than 110 surgeries, most involving brain tumours, epilepsy or vascular disease. Sutherland still keeps Kayla's snapshot in his office, a reminder of the modest beginnings of what has grown into a multimillion-dollar research and business venture—one that promises to dramatically expand the boundaries of neurosurgery. The mobile MRI was recently twinned with a state-of-the-art surgical navigational system developed by a German company, BrainLAB. The MRI's Winnipeg-based manufacturer, Innovative Magnetic Resonance Imaging Systems, and BrainLAB are now selling their product, dubbed the iMotion, internationally—at prices as high as $5 million. They are also laying the groundwork for the next major step in neurosurgery: robotics. "What we're doing here," says Sutherland, "is jumping into the future."

In many ways, the iMotion builds upon two of the most important advances in modern neurosurgery: the invention of computerized tomography (CT) scanning in the 1970s and of MR imaging in the early '80s. Both have given surgeons unprecedented ability to peer into the brain, with MRIs, in particular, offering highly detailed, three-dimensional snapshots. The problem is that the typical MRI, weighing in at several tonnes, has to be housed outside the operating room because its powerful magnetic fields would wreak havoc on electronic medical equipment. That allows surgeons to take an MR image before and after surgery—but not to confirm *during* surgery that the job has been done properly and no bits of tumour remain.

The iMotion grew out of brainstorming sessions between Sutherland and John Saunders, then a Winnipeg-based chemist with the National Research Council, in the early 1990s. How, they wondered, could they bring an MRI into the operating room, then remove it when it was not needed? They hit upon the idea of suspending the five-tonne magnet from a track on the ceiling. When brain images are required, an electric motor wheels our the MRI to surround the patient's head on the surgical table. At other times, the machine is housed in a compartment off the operating room. To control the MRI's disruptive magnetic field, they mounted a second magnet perpendicular to the first to cancel out the force field acting outside the unit. That allows standard steel surgical tools and sensitive electronic equipment to stay in the room. The surgical table is made of titanium and glass fibre, materials impervious to magnetism.

With Calgary's unique MRI on tracks, surgeons can double-check their progress during an operation

With the mobile MRI, Sutherland feels confident during surgery that he is accomplishing what he sets out to do. Typically, brain surgeons must peer through tiny openings. Given the difficulty they have seeing the area where they are working, they sometimes leave a small part of a tumour behind, only to detect it in a post-operative MRI. That often means putting patients through a second operation. Sutherland cites several personal examples to illustrate his point:

- Before he had access to the mobile MRI, he operated on a one-year-old girl suffering from diminished consciousness due to small tumours in the back of her brain. Sutherland removed several of the tumours, but a post-operative MR image revealed that he had missed one. The infant had to undergo a second operation the following week.
- A more recent case involved a 19-year-old with a large tumour in the middle of his head. After delving down between the two halves of the brain, Sutherland was so convinced he had removed all of the tumour that he left the operating room to attend to another matter. But when he returned to close the incision, an MR image had located a small piece of tumorous tissue, which Sutherland then removed.
- A 14-year-old girl had a tumour in her eye that was causing some double vision. Again, the intra-operative MR image after its removal pointed to an undetected piece. It might have taken 10 to 20 years to regrow to the extent that it presented a problem, says Sutherland, but the tumour would ultimately have required further surgery.

The mobile MRI project has received about $20 million in research funding from private and public sources, including a $3.7-million grant from the Alberta government to build an addition to the Foothills hospital to house Sutherland's MRI and a second MRI machine used for stroke research. The makers of the iMotion are negotiating with potential buyers as far afield as San Francisco, Munich and Istanbul.

Other manufacturers have developed intra-operative MRIs in the past three years, but none with the mobility of the iMotion. A so-called Double Doughnut configuration produced by Milwaukee-based GE Medical Systems allows surgery to be performed within the rings of a large magnet. But the confined space limits the types of procedures surgeons can undertake, and they must operate with instruments made of materials other than steel. Another company, Siemens AG of Germany, has come up with a stationary MRI unit to be installed next to the operating room. That allows an anesthetized patient to be moved to the MRI during an operation—but also poses a potential risk of, among other things, contaminating the surgical field.

Apart from the advantages that a mobile MRI offers, says Sutherland, the addition of sophisticated navigational technology to create the iMotion opens a new world of possibilities. Several markers are placed on a brace that holds the patient's head. Then the magnet rolls in to take images of the head, the brain itself and the markers. That lets the surgeon calculate the tumour's exact location. Ultimately, says Sutherland, "what we could then do is tell a robotic arm where to make an incision. A robot will be able to do that more precisely than human eye-hand co-ordination allows."

That is for another day. For now, Sutherland and his Calgary-based team are content to know they are pushing the neurological envelope. "In our field," says Sutherland, "the ability to see is a precious thing." The innovative iMotion is bringing yet another set of eyes to the tricky task of probing the inner brain. m





Photographs by Peter Bregg for Maclean's

iMotion wheels into place during an operation. Sutherland adjusts a patient's head under a brace that helps pinpoint a tumour's location (left); 'we're jumping into the future'

His Irish eyes are smiling

Michael Collins's fiction is no match for his real-life adventures



Collins' teenage thug turned author, athlete and computer whiz

Irish-born author **Michael Collins** is an encryption expert at Microsoft with a PhD, does extreme sports—including marathons in the Himalayas—and can write a book in three months. But his future didn't always look so promising. As a teenage thug in Limerick, Collins was once arrested, along with some friends, for his peripheral involvement in a stabbing. "Although we didn't get convicted, we got a bad name in the community," says Collins, now 35. "After that, we emigrated to the United States."

Living in New York City as an 18-year-old, Collins saved enough money working in a slaughterhouse to buy a station wagon and travel the country after the recession of the early 1980s. "It was like there had been a nuclear holocaust," says Collins. "I saw what deindustrialism had done to America—whole generations wiped out, no jobs." Nearly 20 years later, he recalls these images in his latest book, *The Keepers of Truth*, which is set in a Rust Belt American town that lost its factory but gained a homegrown serial killer.

Collins writes while running—working out the plots and characters by speaking into a tiny tape-recorder he carries with him. These days, Collins divides his time between working on his next book—about the Korean War— and worrying about his next extreme adventure. "I said I would set a world speed record scaling Everest without oxygen. Now, I wish I hadn't," admits Collins, who has already climbed Mount McKinley in Alaska. "I've begun to think about the weather, avalanches, the altitude." In his case, it's no criticism to say his writing is *almost* as interesting as his everyday life.

Waxing nostalgic

In the mid-90s, **The Flashing Lights** were a Halifax cover band playing 1960s rave-up songs by **The Yardbirds** and **The Who**. For lead singer/guitarist **Matt Murphy**, formerly of the Halifax alternative band the **Superfriendz**, it was a chance to get psychedelic. "For me," says Murphy, 31, "it was the ultimate thrill just to play songs off The Yardbirds' *Roger the Engineer* album."

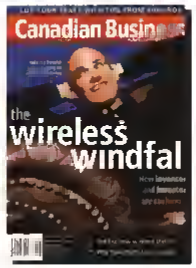
But the novelty wore off and in 1998, Murphy and Flashing Lights' bassist **Henri Sangalang** moved to Toronto and added drummer **Steve Pitkin** and organist/harmonica/tambourine man **Gaven Dianda** to the group. Last spring, they released *Where The Change Is*—a CD of '60s-inspired material written by Murphy that has won raves. *Rolling Stone* recently hailed Murphy as a pop "perfectionist," whose songs are "irresistible" and "contagious."

In concert, the band, which tours the West Coast next month, keeps to its British Invasion roots. Murphy flings himself around, jumping off the drum kit while Dianda shakes his mop top as fervently as his tambourine. "Goofing around is so important," says Murphy. "Most of our songs are sad, so buffoonery gives us a well-rounded image."



Sangalang, Murphy, Pitkin and Dianda

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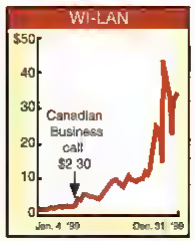






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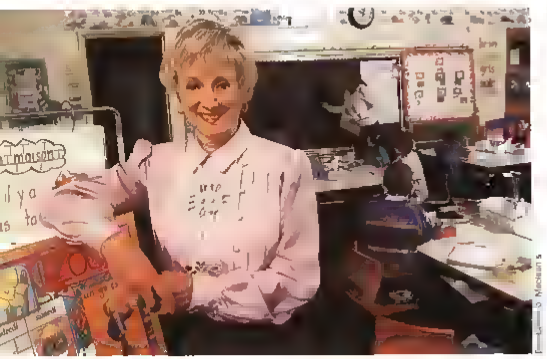
Translating Success

Thirty-five years after the introduction of French immersion, its boosters and detractors are still at loggerheads

By John Schofield

Peter Gill was never the teacher's pet—in either official language. But as one of the first French-immersion students in Ottawa in the mid-1970s, Gill persisted and his fluency blossomed. Now, the 34-year-old Vancouver businessman credits that skill with opening doors he never would have anticipated. In 1993, Gill completed his international MBA at INSEAD, the prestigious French business school south of Paris, which requires proficiency in French and a third language. In 1994, he was hired as a financial adviser by Vancouver-based mining giant Placer Dome Inc., where his work took him to 20 countries. Says Gill, now working on the launch of a health-related Web site in Vancouver: "Choosing French immersion was the best thing my parents ever did."

Thirty-five years after its bold launch in the Montreal suburb of St-Lambert, French immersion has spawned devoted fans—and ardent detractors. Next month, the New Brunswick government will issue a report addressing charges that French-immersion programs, which attract almost 25 per cent of students in that province, are siphoning off the best and brightest, creating a huge academic divide. Across Canada, enrolment in French immersion has risen 17 per cent since 1990 to include more than 317,000 students, but its popularity varies dramatically: while interest has slumped in such provinces as British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, numbers continue to grow in Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. In some cases, the decision to spurn immersion is political. In others, it's a matter of competing options: the Edmonton public school board offers programs in 10 languages. Critics contend that French immersion is elitist and expensive, despite the fact that it is one of the few educational offerings that receives federal funding in elementary or high school. Says Michele MacPhail, principal of Ecole Beaufort, a French-immersion school in Halifax: "We're always in fear of the chopping block."



Principal MacPhail: living in fear of the chopping block

Ottawa remains one of the program's biggest boosters. Last year, the federal government increased its budget for official-language education by $50 million annually, to $219 million a year. Three months ago, it reached a deal requiring the provinces to develop a formal action plan for official-language education. Heritage Minister Sheila Copps raised the stakes even higher, telling the Commons-Senate Committee on Official Languages that Ottawa will aim to have half of all teenagers graduating from Canadian high schools effectively bilingual by 2010, up from one in four today. But continued support is needed to keep French immersion strong, says writer John Ralston Saul, a keynote speaker at last month's French for the Future conference, a multi-city event promoting the career advantages of bilingualism. "We're past the time when people should be defending immersion schooling," says Saul. "They should be boasting about its success."

For many parents, the appeal is clear. In 1997, Scott Hewlett surveyed 158 parents for his master's thesis, exploring their reasons for choosing early French immersion. Hewlett, a teacher in St. John's, Nfld., found that the most common response was "future employment enhancement." A close second: "a more stimulating learning environment," followed by "a better student-teacher ratio." Experts would add that a second language not only bolsters command of one's mother tongue because students become more conscious of language structure, but makes the acquisition of other languages easier. And many researchers argue that immersion generally enhances a child's cognitive abilities.



Wakefield (centre) with husband Ken Reeder, Graham and Joanna: students often bear a heavier homework load

Those attributes help to explain its continued growth, despite a number of hurdles. Attrition rates can be high. The dropout rate hits its peak just before high school, often due to the smaller number of course options offered in French at the secondary level. In all grades, teachers can struggle with a shortage of French materials. A looming teacher shortage could also hit the program hard. French teachers are already among the most sought after in the field.

But French immersion's very success may be its biggest curse—at least in New Brunswick. Canada's only officially bilingual province boasts the highest percentage of students in French immersion outside Quebec. Researchers warn that by attracting the best students, the French stream may be having a negative impact on the English stream. Last year, only 49 per cent of students in the Grade 6 and 7 core English program passed New Brunswick's standardized mathematics test, compared with 75 per cent of students in French immersion. The immersion students also performed better in the provincewide English test.

According to Marie Cashion, a professor of education at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, teachers in the English stream are burning out because they are left with a higher proportion of special-needs students. In a scenario common across Canada, immersion students who falter are shunted into the English system. "We've created a refugee class," says Cashion. "Parents who want a quality education now feel they have no choice but French immersion."

But for many, the decision is not so simple. French immersion can be a sink-or-swim proposition for those who start young. Inevitably, some students end up struggling. Parents who do not speak French have particular concerns over how they will help their children. Students often bear a heavier homework load—partly because they are learning grammar in two languages. Jane Wakefield, an instructor in the faculty of education at the University of British Columbia and mother of two immersion students at Vancouver's Ecole Jules Quesnel, says her 11-year-old daughter, Joanna, works for up to three hours on a weeknight. Graham, age 9, averages an hour. Says Wakefield: "We've had lots of tears trying to understand what it is they're expected to do."

The first sign of trouble often comes by Grade 3 or 4, when English is introduced for the first time. Teachers home in on spelling and grammatical errors, and by Grade 5 or 6, most children have equalled or surpassed their peers in the English program. Claire Boychyn, principal of F. M. Heard Public School, a French-immersion school in Whitby, Ont., saw evidence of that last year when the school's first crop of Grade 6 students wrote Ontario's standardized test for English and math. Their results placed them among the top five schools in the Durham District School Board. "But in Grade 4, their spelling is atrocious," says Boychyn. "We warn the parents in advance, 'Don't be shocked.'"

As the battle to win entry to university becomes increasingly competitive, some parents are loath to gamble on a program that might compromise academic performance. And as

For parents, a major attraction is 'future employment enhancement'



Peter Paul Photographics

Genesee: experts are at odds over the effects on special-needs students

more families turn to private schools, concern is also focused on passing entrance exams. Even otherwise gifted children can founder in immersion. But generally speaking, those who thrive display strong verbal and listening skills, as well as good visual and auditory memories. "So many parents don't want their kids to miss any experience," says Barbara Bresver, a Toronto-based psychologist. "But more effort has to be put into determining whether the program is a good match for a child's learning style."

Some researchers argue that even children with learning difficulties might be better off in a French immersion program. Fred Genesee, a psychology professor at McGill University in Montreal, and a well-known authority on immersion, points out that instruction usually involves frequent repetition, lots of visual aides and physical activity. "Many of these strategies are particularly helpful for those who aren't good in school," says Genesee. "Kids with low academic ability don't do any worse than their counterparts in English."

But Bresver begs to differ. Sitting on the front lines, she has seen many children for whom French immersion has done more harm than good. Weak auditory learners are usually spotted early. But other problems can sometimes be masked by strong oral skills and good memories. "I see a lot of kids with great accents who can banter back and forth in French," says Bresver. "They're in Grade 3 or 4 by the time their parents realize, 'Oh my God, my kid's not really reading.'"

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When there is a problem, addressing it can be difficult. In cases where parents have already twigged to trouble, schools can be reluctant to move their children out of the immersion stream. More often, the school board is unable to offer adequate remedial support, and prefers to return students to the English program. The emotional impact can be extraordinarily painful. Says Bresver: "I've seen children who are so down on themselves. They can't quite figure out what they're doing wrong."

Experts believe that there may be a better alternative than maintaining two distinct language streams. Doug Willms, a professor of education at the University of New Brunswick, suggests a system that keeps all students together during the elementary years, and offers a full range of enrichment programs in high school, ranging from technical offerings to math, science and languages. According to Willms, the Swedish school system is the most integrated in the world: the majority of students graduate with two languages, and are global leaders in literacy and numeracy. Willms believes that the superior performance of students in French immersion may have more to do with the fact that the program attracts a large proportion of students from comparatively higher socio-economic backgrounds, who would perform well in any environment. He is most critical of the fact that immersion offers almost no opportunity for students to transfer back and forth. "It's really the worst kind of streaming," says Willms. "But it will take a government with courage to tackle the problem and come up with a program that's fully inclusive."

One fact is certain: the kind of French instruction that many Canadians grew up with—one period a day, or a few times a week—has largely failed when it comes to creating bilingual graduates. Joan Netten, an education professor at Memorial University in St. John's, Nfld., is overseeing a pilot project at two school districts in the province involving "intensive core" French. The program gives Grade 6 students a "mini-immersion" experience for the first five months of the year, with up to 80 per cent of their instruction in French. Afterwards, they return to core French with a new feel for the language. Traditionally, says Netten, "Students listen to a question and come back with an answer, but there's no real conversation. With this program, they can actually communicate."

While educators argue for their version of a brighter future, at least one issue seems beyond dispute: French immersion is extremely effective in creating functionally bilingual Canadians. "I've studied languages using other methods and never acquired anything close to the fluency I have in French," says Bill Mlacak, a computer consultant now living in Vermont who graduated from a late-immersion program in the Ottawa suburb of Kanata in 1980. "The primary advantage of immersion is that it works." And as the forces of globalization reach fever pitch, the need for languages has never been greater. After 35 years of debate, immersion may be an idea whose time has truly come.

PURSUIT OF BILINGUALISM

The percentage of students enrolled in French immersion in 1998-1999



*English school boards only

Source: Statistics Canada





Richard Hartwell/First Light

Willing and not disabled

A blind climber takes on Mount Logan

By Brian Bergman in Kananaskis



Trent Kent

Canada's highest peak; Watson (below left) in Kananaskis: 'I listen and feel my way along'

It is the kind of horseplay 10-year-old boys are famous for, but this time it ended badly. Ross Watson was at home in Calmar, Alta., 34 km southwest of Edmonton, when a friend picked up Watson's pellet rifle and began shooting. He wasn't aiming for Watson's face, but an errant shot sent a pellet into Watson's right eye, blinding him instantly. Two years later, Watson also lost vision in his left eye—it atrophied through a condition known as sympathetic blindness. Determined to live as normal a life as possible, the 12-year-old Watson could sometimes be seen riding his bicycle up and down neighbourhood streets. "It was a small town, so there wasn't much problem with cars unless they were parked," recalls Watson with a wry smile. "In that case, I'd hit them because I couldn't hear them."

Nearly four decades later, the 49-year-old Watson is still pushing the envelope. On May 3, he will set out to become the first blind person to scale Mount Logan, Canada's highest peak (5,865 m). This follows a 1990 climb that saw Watson come within six hours of reaching the summit of Alaska's Mount McKinley, the only peak in North America higher than Logan. But mountaineering is just one of many ambitious pursuits. Watson likes to travel the 680 km from Calgary to Vancouver on a tandem bicycle with a sighted partner in the lead. He enjoys canoeing, water-skiing and cross-country skiing. As business manager of the William Watson Lodge, in spectacular Kananaskis Country, west of Calgary, Watson oversees Canada's only wilderness resort for the physically and mentally disabled. He is also in his second term as a town councillor in nearby Cochrane. What drives him? "I sometimes joke that the worst thing you can have is an idea," says Watson, "because you might have to act on it."

In a lifetime of audacious undertakings, Watson's planned assault on Mount Logan, in southwestern Yukon, still marks something of a departure. His earlier adventures were primarily for personal satisfaction. This time, Watson is working with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, which is helping to raise money for the $145,000 climb and planning a multimedia public awareness campaign. Watson and the other members of his climbing team—conservation officer Jay Honeyman and park warden Geoff Skinner—will be tracked by a three-person video and photographic crew. In addition to daily updates on the expedition's Web site (*www.visionquest2000.net*), they are producing a documentary and CD-ROM to be distributed across Canada. "We want society to understand the visually impaired can do anything that anyone else can," says Ellie Shuster, communications director in Alberta for the CNIB.

Watson and his fellow climbers will follow the most common route up Mount Logan, along what is called the King's Trench. After being dropped off by a ski plane at an altitude of about 2,000 m, they begin the long slog up the Seward Glacier. For most of the way up the lower slopes, they will climb in teams of three on back-country skis. On steep inclines, they will employ ice axes and boots with crampons.

One of the most daunting aspects about climbing Logan is the wildly unpredictable weather. Even in May, 140-km/h winds whipping off the north Pacific Ocean can drive temperatures down to -35° C. Random storms are famous for stranding expeditions for days at a time, and sometimes forcing them to abandon the mountain.

Those are the sorts of challenges all climbers face. But in Watson's case, there are additional complications. The blind usually rely on routine and familiarity with their surroundings to get around. But on a climbing expedition, notes Watson, "you are moving camp and never know where anything is from one day to the next." He is also without many of the tactile clues he normally gets from the ground. "With snow, the lie of the land shifts constantly," says Watson. "If I've oriented myself in camp and wake up to a heavy snowfall, a lot of my bearing points are gone."

During the actual ascent, Watson will be roped in between the two other members of his team, that way, he can both hear and try to follow in the tracks of the climber in front, while remaining in constant view of the climber behind. "Quite frankly, I listen and feel my way along," says Watson. "But sometimes I'm just dead wrong and the person behind has to shout directions to me."

The visual aspect of climbing, he adds, is easy for the sighted to appreciate. "The information that's harder to convey," he says, "are the visceral feelings of being on a mountain, the magnitude of the elements. People say, 'Aren't you missing something?' I've no doubt that I am, but I don't think I'm missing the most important things."

Watson has learned through experience the importance of setting his own priorities—and sticking to them. At the time he was blinded, he says, the law required him to attend the nearest residential school for the blind, in Watson's case, that was in Vancouver. He credits the six years he spent at the school for teaching him many skills, including athletics. The real challenge, he says, came when he returned to Calmar for high school. The sole blind student, he struggled to fit in.

It was at the University of Alberta that his attitude began to change. Shawn McCarthy, who roomed with Watson and has remained a close friend, recalls that they lived "in a party house, and Ross partied as hard as anyone else." But McCarthy, now a journalist in Ottawa, was also impressed by Watson's physical daring. "He was water-skiing and cross-country skiing and doing things I didn't think blind people did," says McCarthy. And while Watson lobbied for better disabled services on campus, McCarthy said his friend rarely felt sorry for himself. "I don't remember him ever being in a funk or feeling like he couldn't do something," he adds. "To him, it was a waste of time and energy to be bitter." After graduating with a recreation degree in 1981, Watson began working at the William Watson Lodge (named for an early Alberta disabled activist, of no relation to Watson). The lodge and its 22 cabins are unique in Canada in that they were designed with the needs of the disabled in mind.

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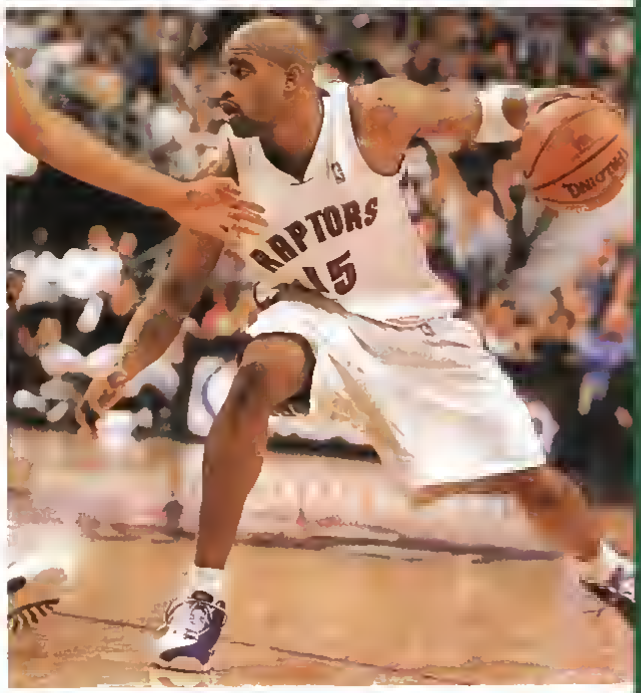
In 1989, Watson married Dolina McPherson, a psychiatric nurse he met at the lodge (they have two grown children from Dolina's previous marriage). They set up house in Cochrane, where Watson soon became involved in local politics. It's a full life, but one that Watson insists is not particularly remarkable. "The things I do are quite normal," he says. "It's just because you are blind, and you throw in a couple of mountains, that it seems extraordinary." Like the sightless bicyclist who braved Calmar's streets all those years ago, Watson continues to follow his inner compass. m

Making the Grade

Toronto's Raptors are winning fans with a hot star and a playoff berth

By John Nicol

At the conclusion of the Toronto Raptors' last home game of the regular season, right after their come-from-behind 85-84 victory over the Chicago Bulls, a party broke out at the Air Canada Centre. The music was loud, hundreds of purple balloons fell from the ceiling and thousands of fans stood by their seats, cheering and whistling and stamping their feet to the beat. Down on the court, long after their veteran teammates had hit the showers, smiling Vince Carter and Tracy McGrady batted balloons into the crowd and soaked up the atmosphere. And like the adoring fans, the two young Raptor stars watched a package of highlights being played on the scoreboard video screen high above. There was Carter, in flight, hammering down another thunderous dunk. There was McGrady, rising from a forest of defenders to block an opponent's shot. And there, in a nutshell, was the Raptors' season.



Carter: his star power finally attracted the country's attention

What a difference two years make. The Raptors were in such disarray after the 1997-1998 season that general manager Glen Grunwald felt compelled to stand at centre court, apologize to the fans and promise he and the team would make amends. They did. Thanks to Carter, McGrady and a strong supporting cast, the Raptors—in their fifth season since joining the NBA—are in their first playoff series this week, against the New York Knickerbockers. And perhaps more important to the long-term health of the franchise, the Raptors have finally made a dent in the crowded Toronto sports market. Sure, they lag behind the Maple Leafs in the hearts of local fans at this time of year, but their TV ratings have climbed encouragingly, licensed-merchandise sales are up sharply and the team sold out 19 of its last 28 games at home. Having suffered the usual expansion pains for the first four years, the Raptors found marketing magic simply by being competitive.

In the National Basketball Association, as in other pro sports, big-name players drive the big wheels of commerce. In Canada, for instance, companies that sell backboards and

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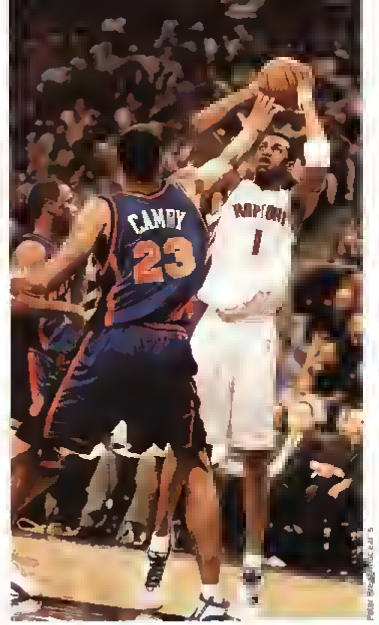
Involving.

Absorbing.

Rewarding.

basketballs estimate they will finish the year with a 20- to 30-percent jump over 1999, and they attribute most of that windfall to Carter. It was his star power, they say, that got attention in a country that had not shown much interest in the first four years that the Raptors and Vancouver Grizzlies played in the NBA. "Vince has made the difference," says Torontonian Bernie Angelow, a longtime basketball fan. "It might be true that because he's big in the States he's big here, but he's created quite a buzz in a hockey town."

Carter's impact is felt in the United States, too. His monster slams and game-winning three-pointers have become staples on late-night sportscasts all over North America, and he was featured on the covers of several major U.S. magazines. The native of Daytona Beach, Fla., was the number 1 vote-getter in fan balloting for the all-star game, and rewarded the voters with an electrifying—and winning—performance in the game's accompanying slam-dunk contest. He then had to suffer the inevitable comparisons with Michael Jordan—their high-flying, high scoring styles, the fact they both attended the University of North Carolina. But the 23-year-old Carter professes discomfort with comparisons to an icon, and also with suggestions that he is single-handedly responsible for the Raptors' improvement. "I'm just one small part of what's going good around here," he insists.





Carter and his mother at a Toronto high school, McGrady duelling New York's Marcus Camby (top); a spirited, overachieving group of players

Friends and family have helped Carter, a six-foot, six-inch guard-forward in his second year as a pro, handle the demands of stardom. His mother, Michelle Carter-Robinson, a retired teacher, says she is not surprised by his accomplishments. "He is very goal-oriented," she said after an outing with her son at a central Toronto high school. "The students here asked about his goals, and he said he had to set new ones because he made the Olympic team, the all-star team and the playoffs." Kevin Albrecht, managing director of IMG Canada, Carter's management firm, says the key to the player's popularity is "he's just a really nice kid. He greets everybody with that great smile and a good firm handshake. When you meet his mom, you know why. It's like meeting Walter and Phyllis Gretzky—you know why Wayne is the way he is."

The Raptors' turnaround is in stark contrast to the fortunes of its expansion twin, the Vancouver Grizzlies. They suffered through another dismal year on the court, fired their coach and were sold to Chicago businessman Michael Heisley. The only sellout crowd for the Grizzlies occurred when the Raptors came to town. "That's because of Carter," says Jay Triano, the Grizzlies radio analyst and Canada's men's basketball team coach. "Shareef Abdur-Rahim, Michael Dickerson and Mike Bibby are stars here, but Carter is an international star playing in Canada, exposing even more kids to the sport."

While the Grizzlies have been assembled largely through the draft of college players, Grunwald rebuilt the Raptors through a series of trades and free-agent signings. He acquired stalwart frontline players such as Antonio Davis, Charles Oakley and Kevin Willis, and guards Muggsy Bogues and Dell Curry—playoff-experienced veterans to complement the raw talent of McGrady and Carter. And it was coach Butch Carter (no relation) who gave 20-year-old McGrady the opportunity to blossom into a more complete player. While insiders blame a late-season swoon—during which the Raptors lost eight of nine games—on the fact that some veterans were unhappy with the team's offensive scheme, there has generally been a productive chemistry among the players. Davis, for one, says he has seen teams with more talent perform worse. "What we have here are tremendous people," adds Davis, acquired by trade from Indiana to play centre. "We want to win for each other—and that's what it's all about."

That's what it's all about—for now. Carter is under contract for another two years. "I hope I'm here for as long as my career," he says, "however long they keep me here in Toronto." But McGrady could leave as a free agent this summer. He told *Maclean's* that, "whatever I decide to do after the season, the fans have to understand it's a business, and I have to do what's best for me." And since many of the veterans are aging, it's possible that this spirited, overachieving group of players may well be playing their last games together. For the growing legions of Raptor fans, the future is now. m



Charles Gordon

Let's hear it for Canada!

There is good news and bad news about Canadian nationalism. The good news is that it exists. The bad news is that the proof of its existence lies largely in beer commercials.

You've seen them. And seen them and seen them, particularly if you are a sports fan. Beer commercial after beer commercial, celebrating various aspects of our national life, mostly having to do with hockey. You've seen the guy with the smelly hockey bag, the impromptu hockey game in the middle of a busy street, interrupted by a streetcar, the road hockey game interrupted by the street sweeper, the hockey game on the frozen lake in the Far North, watched over by wolves. The commercials climax—surely, nothing will top this—in the guy called Joe, who walks out onto a large stage, looking a bit like Jim Carrey, claiming not to be a lumberjack, although he is dressed a bit like one. He says he is a Canadian. He has a prime minister, not a president. He speaks English and French, not American.

Joe delivers a short lecture on the proper pronunciation of the word "about." He can proudly sew his country's flag on his backpack. He believes in diversity, not assimilation. He salutes the beaver, and as the music swells in the background and his voice rises, he says it is pronounced "zed," not "zee." He claims this country is the first nation of hockey and says that he lives in the best part of North America. "I am Canadian!" he cries at last and then, embarrassed by his uncharacteristic burst of emotion, mumbles "Thanks" into the microphone and wanders off the stage.

Whoever thought we'd be taking solace in beer commercials? Until recently, they seemed to promote the kind of bars you wouldn't be caught dead in, or celebrate the kind of behaviour that, if it happened at the next cottage, would have you thinking seriously about selling the place. Now, all of a sudden they are patriotic.

True, it is not necessarily a good thought that this wave of patriotism will cause more of our Canadian young people to become enthusiastic consumers of the sponsor's product. But the damage may already have been done in that respect. Meanwhile, it is fun to ponder the cosmic significance of beer and nationalism.

Somebody has decided that Canadian nationalism sells. If that's true, it's good. It means that a unique culture, in art and music and theatre and writing, can survive in this country, survive in the face of a powerful culture pouring over our border every day.

Canadian artists have always hoped this, of course, have always gone about their creative business on the assumption that it was so. But there have always been doubters, and Canadian authors have not had access to the powerful research tools available to the creators of beer commercials. Margaret Laurence set *The Stone Angel* in a town resembling Neepawa, Man., although market research might have told her that Los Angeles would sell better. Tom Thomson painted *The Jack Pine* because he felt like painting a jack pine. There might have been an equally paintable spruce right next to it, but Thomson went for the jack pine. As luck would have it, that was the right decision, but he had no scientific way of knowing.

Whereas the makers of beer commercials would have studied the matter carefully—hired a polling firm to find out the views of thousands of Canadians on the jack pine vis-a-vis the spruce, then followed it up with focus groups, small gatherings of Canadians giving forth their most intimate feelings on the subject. "Spruce feels sort of, I don't know, itchy somehow," someone might say, and that would be it.

The same kind of testing would have been done on Canadian patriotism, on Joe's speech. And it must have passed. For beer-drinking hockey fans, at least, it is now acceptable to be proud of Canada. Since there is at least a bit of the beer-drinking hockey fan in most of us, we can assume that the lesson extends to the country as a whole—or at least the English-speaking part of it where the commercial plays.

Proof of this emerged in the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs when Joe, as played by actor Jeff Douglas, did his act live for 20,000 fans at Toronto's Air Canada Centre in a break during a game between the Maple Leafs and the Ottawa Senators. He got a standing ovation, proof that the message's nationalistic appeal goes beyond the youthful demographic at which it is aimed.

Strange to take comfort from beer commercials, but we take comfort where we can. Comfort should also be taken—perhaps "courage" would be a better word—by Canadian broadcasters, publishers, artistic directors and others who make the decisions that govern our culture, high and pop. From the evidence, we are not wanna-be Americans or wanna-be Brits. We have shown ourselves ready to buy the patriotic caps and T-shirts. We appreciate our own identity, enjoy it, even laugh at it a bit. We could stand a lot more of it than we are now getting on stages, television screens and, especially, movie screens.

Maybe the people with the big culture dollars have only been waiting for positive reinforcement, a strong sign that Canada sells. Well, it does. The signs are all around. Take it from Joe.

Charles Gordon is a columnist with The Ottawa Citizen



Red-hot Drama

Once again, Toronto's World Stage festival is offering some of the most exciting plays from around the globe

By John Bemrose

It comes from the oldest drama ever written, yet the scene could have been torn from last night's nightmare. Great metal doors rumble open to reveal a woman in a low-necked party dress. She is bent over a large bathtub, her hair dishevelled, her eyes glittering strangely, her chest and arms bathed in blood. She is Clytemnestra, the most terrible of all tragic heroines. In her hand is a butcher's knife, and in the tub are the bodies of her victims: her husband, King Agamemnon, and his concubine, Cassandra. Played with riveting force by British actress Helen Schlesinger, the blood-crazed queen exults over her work, filling the theatre with poetry first heard 2,500 years ago—and casting a palpable spell over an audience at Toronto's du Maurier World Stage festival. The play is the first part of *The Oresteia*, a trilogy by the Greek dramatist Aeschylus. In the hands of Britain's renowned Royal National Theatre—and in a sinewy new translation by the late poet laureate Ted Hughes—its searing meditations on themes of revenge and justice seem as fresh as today's news.

This *Oresteia* would turn heads wherever it was performed, but now it is one spellbinding production among many at the three-week festival of international drama (running until April 30). The Russians are represented by the famous Maly Theatre of St. Petersburg with its signature piece, *Gaudeamus*, a surreal look at life in the Gorbachev-era Soviet army. The Americans have shown up with *Nixon's Nixon*, a major prizewinner at last year's Edinburgh Festival, which focuses on a Watergate-plagued President Nixon. And the Cubans have weighed in with *Otra Tempestad*, a swirling pageant based on Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. There are also hit dramas from Germany, Ireland, Belgium and France.

Canadian playwrights are contributing 10 new shows, including Robert Lepage's *The Far Side of the Moon*, Michel Tremblay's *For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again* and Ann-Marie MacDonald's eagerly awaited new musical comedy, *Anything that Moves* (opening on April 27). It all adds up to a sampling of some of the most exciting and innovative contemporary theatre from around the world. Festival artistic director Don Shipley notes that New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles used to host similar events. "But they've all closed now," he says. "That makes us English-speaking North America's only showcase of international, contemporary drama." And he adds, "We're expecting 40,000 people this year—ticket sales are going through the roof. This is easily our most successful World Stage yet."



Scene from *Gaudeamus* (inset), Schlesinger (centre right) in *The Oresteia*: Soviet army silliness, and a tale of revenge

The irony is that the curtain may soon close for good on the 16-year-old biennial festival run by the city's Harbourfront Centre cultural facility. By next October, du Maurier and other tobacco companies will no longer be legally permitted to title-sponsor sporting and cultural events. That's going to affect a number of jazz festivals, curling bonspiels and equestrian meets across the country. And it may knock the du Maurier World Stage right out of contention. About a third of the festival's $1.9-million budget is donated by the tobacco giant, with another third coming from box office and the rest from federal agencies such as the Canada Council. Shipley points out that the $600,000 or so needed to keep the event running is not a lot by world cultural standards. "In Australia, the Sydney and Adelaide arts festivals have budgets of over $25 million, and so does the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland. We're not asking for a king's ransom here." But so far, he reports, "There's no new sponsor waiting in the wings."

Meanwhile, the shows go on—in more than a dozen locations around the city. One of the most sought-after tickets has been for *Fire in the Head* by 28-year-old German playwright Marius von Mayenburg. Non-German speakers can listen on headphones to an English translation—a process that flattens out the subtleties in the script. Yet there's no missing the bleak humour and crude force of this play: it's a stripped-down Greek tragedy in suburban drag. At the beginning, four members of a typical German middle-class family pose with earnest smiles for a photograph. By the end, two of them are horribly murdered, thanks largely to the explosive emotions packed into Kurt (Robert Beyer), an alienated teen who makes James Dean look like Beaver Cleaver. Caught in a fire, he spends much of the drama with a burn-reddened face smeared with cream. Behind this strange mask seethes a love of destruction that escapes rational understanding.

Later, Thomas Ostermeier, the play's director—and, at 30, a rising star on the European scene—was featured at one of the festival's interviews with outstanding figures in world theatre (future guests will include U.S. director Julie Taymor of *Lion King* fame on April 26, and legendary British theatre guru Peter Brook on April 29). One of the subjects touched on by Ostermeier was the high level of public funding for the arts in Germany. He sent a gasp through the audience when he noted that the prestigious Berlin theatre he heads, Schaubuhne am Lehniner Platz, gets 23 million marks (about $16 million) a year from government sources while having to generate only four million marks ($2.8 million) through the box office. That's a subsidy rate of 85 per cent—compared with, for example, about 4½ per cent at Ontario's Stratford Festival. Many in the crowd were nodding as Ostermeier added, "The whole tradition of strong support for the arts is itself one of Germany's great cultural treasures."

Among the myriad supplementary events at the World Stage—readings, tributes, a 24-hour, back-to-back showing of 12 *Hamlet* films—one of the most interesting draws is a display of work by Michael Levine, the 39-year-old Canadian who, in the past decade, has become recognized as one of the world's finest stage designers. While a slide show flashed images of his stark, monumental creations for such organizations as New York's Metropolitan Opera, viewers could also browse through a selection of his notebooks—a treasure trove of whimsical sketches and notes that, at one point, call for a set to be decorated "with penis and vagina wallpaper." Such decorative flair would have fit right in at the festival's Kabaret Erotika, a spirited late-night revue featuring salacious acts by local and international artists. One of the hits of the evening was Cuba's Teatro Buendia company, which acted out a version of the Garden of Eden story that bared enough flesh to make an angel blush.

That company's major offering to the World Stage, *Otra Tempestad* (Another Tempest), meanwhile, takes enough liberties with Shakespeare to make a purist turn blue. In a magic-realist spectacle that contains a few central figures from *The Tempest*, the characters Macbeth, Hamlet and Shylock show up too. The Cuban company has completely discarded Shakespeare's plot and language, replacing it with an exuberant, colourfully costumed allegory about life on a mythical island that Cubans would no doubt interpret as their own. Prospero is depicted as a well-meaning tyrant—not unlike Fidel Castro—who seems helpless to prepare his people for the tides of change and destruction threatening them.

The masterful physical control exerted by Teatro Buendia has something in common with Canada's Soulpepper Theatre Company. Their staging of *The Mill on the Floss*, adapted from George Eliot's 1860 novel by English writer Helen Edmundson, is one of the gems of the festival. The production

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Theatre

offers an all-too-rare opportunity to see the work of Robin Phillips, believed by many to be Canada's finest director of classical theatre. On a stage dominated by a low wooden platform, Phillips moves his actors with the precision of a dance choreographer—not a step or gesture is without purpose. This lends the show a stylized quality of great beauty. Particularly effective is Edmundson's device of having three different actors play Maggie Tulliver, the story's heroine, at different stages in her life. Late in the show, all three Maggies are often on stage simultaneously, and often at loggerheads with each other, deepening the sense that this is a young woman profoundly torn among the competing hungers of her own soul.

On the other hand, Robert Lepage's *The Far Side of the Moon* is a disappointment. An ambitious solo work performed by Lepage himself, the play focuses on two brothers—a TV weatherman and a failed academic obsessed with Soviet cosmonauts. Lepage dramatizes their rivalries with his usual transformative manipulation of ordinary objects: the window of a washing machine, for example, becomes the porthole of a spaceship and even a goldfish bowl. Spaceman-puppets stalk the stage, while old films of the Soviet and American space programs flicker on the walls. But Lepage's attempt to metaphorically bind the vastness of outer space and the loneliness of his characters is emotionally flat.

Among the shows opening during the final week, *The Suit* from France is the hottest ticket—for the simple reason that it is directed by Peter Brook. Often touted as the world's pre-eminent theatre director, Brook has reportedly woven his usual spell with this drama about a collapsing marriage, based on a story by South African writer Can Themba. Brook has not appeared in Toronto since his groundbreaking *A Midsummer Night's Dream* opened in Canada more than 30 years ago. Unless the World Stage is rescued from its funding woes, this may well be the last chance Canadians get to see his wizardry at home. m

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ROGERS MEDIA

Like father, like son—explosively

Femi Kuti keeps Fela's Afro-beat tradition alive



Femi Kuti: one of this spring's hottest releases

His father cast a long shadow. Fela Anikulapo Kuti was a musical star and political icon whose global popularity made him both a hero and an enemy of the state in his native Nigeria. But Femi Kuti has learned to live in that shadow. As the son of the inventor of the politically charged, wildly percussive music known as Afro-beat, Femi has picked up where his legendary father, who died in 1997, left off. Signed to a French record label, Femi has taken Afro-beat and fused it with elements of soul and hip-hop to create one of this spring's most talked-about releases. Titled *Shoki Shoki* (Barclay/Universal), the powerful album promises to make a star of the 37-year-old singer-saxophonist, who has recently been featured in magazines ranging from *GQ* to *The New Yorker*.

Now, the younger Kuti is taking his sound across North America with his 18-piece band, The Positive Force, on a tour that included three sold-out dates in Canada. During his concert at Toronto's Phoenix Concert Theatre last month, Femi performed his explosive brand of Afro-beat while video images of his father played on a large screen. The resemblance was as striking as the juxtaposition was self-serving. "Fela was my biggest inspiration," Femi told *Maclean's*, noting he had played in his father's band for eight years, until he went solo in 1986. "I look like him, dance like him and even talk like him sometimes. I will never run away from the fact that I am his son."

Femi's album comes at a time when his father, who has often been described as a cross between Bob Marley and James Brown, is enjoying a major international revival. Coinciding with *Shoki Shoki*'s release, the Paris-based Barclay label is issuing 20 of the albums recorded by Fela between 1970 and 1981 on 10 double-CD compilations. Artists including Stevie Wonder, Paul McCartney, Miles Davis, David Byrne, the Red Hot Chili Peppers and jazz trumpeter Lester Bowie have all sung the praises of Fela, who died at 58 from complications due to AIDS.

And his influence continues to grow. Contemporary rappers and soul singers such as D'Angelo, Lauryn Hill and Ahmir Thompson, of the Philadelphia hip-hop crew The Roots, have all recorded songs using "samples" or quotes from Fela's music. Meanwhile, DJs in clubs from London to New York City are mixing Fela tracks with dance records to produce a new sound known as Afro-house, and bands such as Toronto's Culture Force, which plays his songs, are keeping his legacy alive. Michael Veal, U.S. author of the forthcoming book *Fela: The Life and Times of an African Musical Icon*, is not surprised by the musician's influence. Veal writes that Fela was an innovator, a rebel, a hero and "one of the most irrepressible and profusely creative African spirits of the late-20th century."

Like his saxophonist father, Femi has electrified the dance and hip-hop communities. In fact, *Shoki Shoki*'s nine tracks, including the sexually provocative *Beng Beng Beng* and the politically conscious *Blackman Know Yourself*, have been retooled by renowned DJs such as Joe Claussell and François K for a special double CD titled *Shoki Remixed*. And while there are other parallels with his father, such as running a political organization called Movement Against Second Slavery, Femi differs in several important areas. Where Fela was harshly critical of the Nigerian government, which led to his harassment, imprisonment and more than 200 court appearances, Femi takes a less confrontational stand. And while his father was notorious for his love of marijuana and his 27 wives, Femi eschews all drugs and has just one wife, a singer-dancer in his group with whom he has a son. When not on tour, they live in Lagos, Nigeria's largest city.

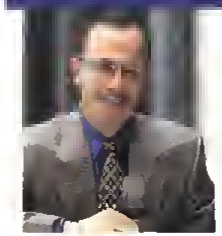
The younger musician is adamant that while influenced enormously by his father, he is not a mere carbon copy. "Two people cannot be the same," he says. "My father was a great man, but I am content with being myself." With his taste for pop flourishes, Femi is giving Afro-beat a hot new sound.

Nicholas Jennings

ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

Winetidings

a Publication of Wine & Food



Time to do a *Gallo*

by Tony ASPLER, Editor of Winetidings

On a recent visit to California I visited E & J Gallo's Fret Ranch in Sonoma where I sampled their 1996 Laguna Ranch Pinot Noir. It was one of the most exciting New World Pinot Noirs I have tasted.

Unfortunately, this wine is not commercially available. Only three hundred cases were made, but it shows what a mega-company can do when it puts its resources behind a project. Gallo has a mission to produce stunning Pinot Noir and they will not release the wine on the marketplace until they consider it to be a cut above. I mention this in our issue devoted to the Ontario wine industry because Vincor has set itself the same quest for the Holy Grail – producing the ultimate Ontario Pinot Noir. Vincor's joint venture with Boisset, the giant Burgundy house, will give Ontario a new winery, Le Clos Jordan, which will specialize in Burgundy's two varietals, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir.

They have hired a consulting winemaker, Pascal Marchand, a Quebecker who has earned an enviable reputation in Pommard at Clos des Epinots and currently with Boisset. Le Clos Jordan will release its first wine in 2005. One hopes just its Chardonnay. There is no question that these Clos Jordan wines will be highly priced so it would be in the best interests of both Vincor and the consumer if they don't release a Pinot Noir from young vines that is nasty, brutish and short. A rush to market would be a disservice to all parties.

This is not the first sortie by Burgundians into the wine fields of Ontario. Six years ago Bernard Repolt of Jaffelin got together with Inniskillin (now part of Vincor) to assist Karl Kaiser in the selection of barrels for their high priced label called Alliance Chardonnay and Alliance Pinot Noir. The results while interesting were not as successful as both parties had hoped. By planting a vineyard and building a winery dedicated to the project shows that Vincor is serious in wanting to 'do a Gallo' and demonstrate to the world that it not only can make money but can make fine wine too. But in the immortal words of the late Orson Welles, they should "sell no wine before its time."

Cheers!

Tony Aspler's website is www.tonyaspler.com

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Appearance: plum colour
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Peller Estates Founder's Series Cabernet Merlot 1997, Ontario VQA $8.95

Appearance: ruby
Nose: red berry, leafy, cedar
Taste: like a petit château Bordeaux – red currant, cedar, enough fruit and acidity to give it real appeal. Tannic edge on the finish, worthy of cellaring 1–2 years. Try with lamb casserole. TA

Editor's Choice:

Inniskillin Founders' Show Reserve Chardonnay 1997
$24.95
(Available at the winery and Ontario's Wine Rack stores)



Appearance: straw bright
Nose: spicy vanilla with citrus notes
Taste: tangerine, apple and caramel notes mingled with vanilla oak with a toasty, spicy finish. Full in the mouth, well balanced with great length. One of the best Ontario Chardonnays of the vintage

Ontario
yours for the tasting!



The Ontario wine industry is brimming with confidence. Like Napa in the 1970s, new wineries are suddenly appearing on the scene, making terrific wines, like 13th Street and Malivoire. The large, established concerns are re-evaluating the quality of their products to compete more successfully with the young Turks.

Talented winemakers from abroad are attracted to the province. This abbreviated section comes from *Winetidings* May/June issue, the annual Ontario issue, and brings you up-to date on the latest developments in a burgeoning industry. The report was compiled by Linda Bramble and Barbara Leslie who both live in Ontario's wine country. The photos are by Steven Elphick.

Make sure you plan to visit Niagara's wineries this summer – you won't be disappointed.

Ontario's wine industry came of age with the 1988 vintage. That was the year when the appellation VQA was introduced, setting minimum standards for the wines produced from 100 per cent Ontario grapes grown in designated viticultural areas. Since that date the growth of the industry has been exponential – not only in quality (Ontario wines have been garnering chestfuls of medals at international competitions) – but also in quantity. New wineries have been opening up every year and here are the latest ones to open their doors.

THIRTEENTH STREET WINERY, JORDAN STATION, ONTARIO

A winery of their own is the natural consequence when four prize-winning amateur winemakers meet on a regular basis. "We drew encouragement from fellow club members," commented partner Gunther Funk.

Their fellow club members were not your ordinary amateurs, but were commercial winemakers including the likes of John Marynissen (Marynissen Estates) and Eddie Gurinskas (Lakeview Cellars) who, despite their move into the professional ranks retain their connection with their amateur roots.


Thirteenth Street Winery, Herb Jacobson and Gunther Funk

About two years ago, the principals from Thirteenth Street Winery started talking about taking their interest to the next level. Because each preferred to retain his respective career (three engineers and a lawyer), a given was setting parameters on size. "We needed to stay small," explains Funk.

The winery is located on Funk's Thirteenth St. vineyard. Each partner puts in equity for base materials and they share the winemaking facility. The intention of Thirteenth St. Winery is to craft wines. "We all want to have full control of what we produce," states Funk. "For us to crank up our production is to lose control. We'll stay at 1600 cases. We can't manage more than what we have without giving up our day jobs."

EASTDELL ESTATES, BEAMSVILLE, ONTARIO

Susan O'Dell and Michael East have breathed new life into this stunning Beamsville Bench property, formerly Walters Estates, overlooking Lake Ontario. O'Dell, a Toronto sales and marketing consultant/author, and East, a long-time amateur winemaker, had been supplying grapes to local wineries since 1996 from their own Bench vineyard.

They re-opened their new property last summer with chef, Normand Riel, formerly with Truffles at the Four Seasons, Toronto, who has already garnered recognition for his Sunday brunches and inventive lunch and dinner menus using local products.

Tatjana Cuk, a protegé of award winning winemaker from Stoney Ridge Cellars, Jim Warren, joined last summer as winemaker. She had studied oenology at the University of Novi Sad in Yugoslavia, her homeland, before fleeing the war torn country with her husband and two children.

Her debut will be the great 1999 vintage – high brix on the Chardonnays, noble rot on the Rieslings, ripe rich concentration on the Cabernets. The youth of the Niagara industry excites this 31-year old, along with a focus on quality. (Read more about Ontario's other new wineries, Harbour Estates in Jordan Station and Crown Bench Estates in Beamsville in the May/June issue of *Winetidings* magazine.)

WHERE TO FIND CANADIAN WINES *IN CANADA*

BOTH ONTARIO AND BRITISH COLUMBIA HAVE COME A LONG WAY IN PRODUCING EXCITING, QUALITY WINES. UNFORTUNATELY THEY ARE UNAVAILABLE TO MANY CANADIANS AS THE PROVINCIAL LIQUOR BOARDS VARY IN THE SELECTION (IF ANY) MADE AVAILABLE. AS A NATIONAL WINE-BUYING CO-OPERATIVE, THE OPIMIAN SOCIETY MAKES A SELECTION OF WINES FROM BOTH ONTARIO AND B.C. AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS IN ALL PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES. LAST YEAR WINES FROM PELEE ISLAND WINERY AND STONEY RIDGE WERE OFFERED FROM ONTARIO AS WELL AS HILLSIDE ESTATES, TINHORN CREEK AND SUMAC RIDGE IN B.C. VISIT **www.opim.ca** TO FIND OUT MORE. CANADIAN WINES ARE ON OFFER IN MAY-JUNE.

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What's next for

VINCOR

Canada's largest winery



Architect's rendering of Vincor/Jackson Triggs' new winery

by Linda BRAMBLE

Since the 1980s, European interests have been establishing joint ventures in the new world. Antinori in California, the Rothschilds and Lapostolles in Chile, Möet & Chandon in California and Australia, etc. And now, Boisset in Niagara. As Cave Spring Cellars' winemaker Angelo Pavan said, "[Niagara's] part of it now; we're part of the action."

This is not the first European investment in Niagara. The Germans realized the potential 20 years ago. Herman Weis, noted Mosel nurseryman and winemaker, planted Riesling in 1978 on the vineyards now owned by Vineland Estates. The Swiss company, Underberg, invested in Hillebrand winery in the mid-80s, and long-established winemaking families such as Herbert Konzelmann (Konzelmann Wines), Joseph Zimmerman (Vine Court), Klaus Reif (Reif Wines) recognized the potential and relocated here. The Italians and Portuguese also invested in Colio Estates in the Lake Erie North Shore appellation. But none were quite as big as Boisset; nor quite as French.

No matter how you slice it, a French vote of confidence lends credibility to Niagara on a world stage. It also affirms what local producers have known all along: the Chardonnays produced in Niagara are impressive, and the cool climate conditions for growing superior Pinot Noir are propitious.

When two heavyweights such as Vincor and Boisset make a deal, they're not in it for the romance. Each partner is a $5.5 million enterprise. The plan, according to Vincor President Don Triggs, is to sell a good portion of production to export markets, particularly in Asia and Europe. Boisset has well developed sales organizations.

Perhaps as important as their distribution acumen is their market access. Canada still has difficulty trading with member nations of the European Union. The chances are high that access to the EU will be accelerated by Boisset. "It will help," stated Triggs, "to have a partner behind the wine curtain."

Vincor is no slouch either. As the fourth largest winery in North America, its sales represented 25 per cent by volume of the total sales in Canada for wine, refreshment beverages and wine kits, plus it has a sales and negociant arm (Atlas) that can expedite entry into other international markets.

The partners will split down the middle costs and expertise. Although the deal demonstrates vision, the real nod goes to the winemakers and winegrowers who have been forging the way in Ontario for the past three decades, enough to attract the attention of a company like Boisset, a fact underscored by Triggs. "We are where we are," said Triggs "because of what the winemakers of Ontario have achieved in dramatically improving the profile of Niagara wines around the world. A real pat on the back goes to them."

Vincor Holdings

Acquisitions:

1989	Château-Gai purchased by a management leveraged buy out
1992	Inniskillin Wines merge with Château-Gai to form Cartier
1993	Cartier buys T G. Bright Wines (1874) renaming the company Vincor
1996	Vincor buys Dumont Vins et Spiritueux, Quebec and London Wines
1997	Acquires B. J. Grape, home winemaking firm
1998	Acquires Okanagan Vineyards, BC, renames it Inniskillin OkanaganVineyards
1998	Acquires Groupe Paul Masson, leading Quebec manufacturer and distributor
1998	Acquires Spagnol's Wine and Beer making Supplies, BC
March 2000	Acquires Sumac Ridge Estate Winery in the Okanagan Valley



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- Boisset Mediterranee (France)

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- Sawmill Creek
- Inniskillin Wines

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ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

by Helen HATTON and Ron MORRIS

Giving back: Toronto chefs as fund raisers

Throughout the year, our favourite chefs are out somewhere, cooking under a tent, in an haute couture stockroom or even a farm field – and they're not getting a single penny for their brilliant work. These men and women are donating their time, talent and food to very, very worthy charities.

Events in the last year raised money for Second Harvest, the National Breast Cancer Fund and AIDS research among others. This recipe is excerpted from *The Chef's Table*, a compilation of 80 recipes from 10 years of *Toronto Taste*, published by Random House.

JOSO'S OCTOPUS SALAD

serves six

3 lb	gutted octopus*	
2 Tbsp	salt	30mL
1/2 cup	olive oil	125mL
1/4 cup	red wine vinegar	50mL
1 Tbsp	lemon juice	15mL
2 cloves	garlic, crushed	
1 tsp	salt	5mL
1/2 tsp	freshly ground pepper	2mL
4 cups	chopped romaine lettuce	1L
1/4 cup	small black olives	50mL
2 Tbsp	drained capers	30mL
	Lemon wedges	
	Chopped fresh parsley	

*Note: Two 1½ pound octopuses work well. Have your fishmonger clean and gut them.

Bring large pot of water to a boil. Stir in 2 Tbsp (30mL) salt. Add octopus. Return to boil; reduce heat to medium and cook, covered, 20 to 25 minutes or until octopus is tender but a little chewy (test by cutting small piece from tentacles). Drain. Cool. Cut into bite-sized pieces.

In small bowl, whisk together olive oil, vinegar, lemon juice, garlic, salt and pepper.

In large bowl, combine octopus pieces, romaine, black olives and capers. Drizzle with dressing; toss to coat. Arrange on serving platter. Garnish with lemon wedges and chopped parsley. Serve immediately.

Wine suggestion:
Ontario Dry Riesling

Entertainment Notes

A Canuck finale for Cannes

For the first time in its 53-year history, the Cannes International Film Festival has chosen a Canadian movie for its prestigious closing-night gala. Quebec director Denys Arcand's *Stardom*, a dark comedy set in the fashion world, will climax the festival, which unreels May 10 to 21 on the French Riviera. Starring Montreal newcomer Jessica Paré, *Stardom* is about a young beauty who is plucked from a small-town women's hockey team to become a supermodel. The cast also includes Dan Aykroyd, Thomas Gibson—and director Robert Lepage, who plays a fashion photographer.

For Arcand, who triumphed in Cannes with *The Decline of the American Empire* (1986) and *Jesus of Montreal* (1989), the movie marks a departure. "Usually I'm very classical, very stately, but in this one, the camera moves all the time," says the director, explaining that *Stardom* is about a media eye view of a culture obsessed with fame, "a world of instantaneous oblivion." A perfect match for Cannes.



Aykroyd, Paré in Stardom *fashion follies*

Prime-time Elián

Can't get enough of the Elián González saga? Neither can the executives at CBS, who recently gave the green light to a television movie about the plight of the six-year-old Cuban boy who was found clinging to an inner tube off the Florida coast last November. His mother and 10 others had drowned in an attempt to flee Cuba. On Saturday, U.S. authorities seized Elián from relatives in Miami to return him to his father. The movie will be based primarily on the public record, although CBS president Leslie Moonves says the network has secured the rights to the story from "certain people in the family." Moonves didn't elaborate on who they were or how much they were paid. He does admit there is one big problem with the special: no one knows how it will ultimately end. Stay tuned.



Alan Diaz/AP

The boy: no conclusion

Billionaire Rocker

Imagine attending a company shindig only to realize the guitarist with the band is none other than Paul Allen, the 47-year-old multibillionaire who founded Microsoft with Bill Gates in 1975. It could happen, since Allen, who left the computer giant in 1983 (he still sits on Microsoft's board and is the second-largest stockholder), is a member of Grown Men, a Seattle-based rock band that plays at parties and corporate gigs. Created in 1996, the group also includes Marc Willett, Mike Chadderton, Rick Boice, Eric Robison and Terry Davison. Last week, Grown Men released its first, self-titled CD, available only online, natch, at the band's Web site (*www.grownmen.com*).

A skint fiddler

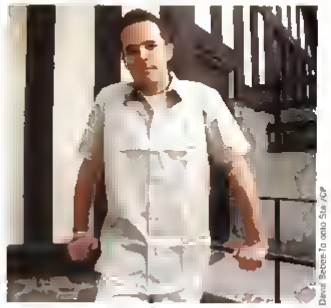
A few days after fiddler Ashley MacIsaac told a reporter in January that he was bankrupt, he said it was a practical joke. But when MacIsaac, 25, filed for bankruptcy last week, he wasn't kidding. Nova Scotia Supreme Court documents show he is $305,633 in debt, $180,000 of which is in unpaid taxes. Listed in his assets, which total $119,000, are three old cars worth $8,000 and musical instruments valued at $1,000.



Ray Phaneuf/Sun Media-QMI

Tips for hip sports

Tyler Brûlé, the Winnipeg native who has become the arbiter of what's cool as editor of London-based *Wallpaper* magazine, is now trying his hand at sports. But *Lune* isn't like any other jock publication. It doesn't give team news or the latest scores, nor does it profile up-and-coming athletes—unless they're well dressed. The glossy quarterly, which makes its first appearance on newsstands at the end of April, is aimed at hip sportsmen, or those who are desperate to become so. The magazine advises readers on which sports are chic and what to wear while playing. "It's a natural follow-on to *Wallpaper* in terms of audience," says Brûlé, 31, who founded that publication in 1996, then sold it to Time Inc. a year later, netting $2.4 million (and retaining the position of editor). As for his own athletic endeavours, Brûlé believes "there's nothing better than whipping someone's arse on the court or beating a friend to the bottom of the slope." And looking great while doing it.



Daniel Berehulak/Getty Images/AFP

Brûlé: a new magazine for trendy jocks

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Entertainment Notes

Best-Sellers

		POSITION LAST WEEK
Fiction		
1.	**ANIL'S GHOST**, Michael Ondaatje (4)	1
2.	**NO GREAT MISCHIEF**, Alistair MacLeod (25)	2
3.	**DRESSING UP FOR THE CARNIVAL**, Carol Shields (P)	3
4.	**HORSE HEAVEN**, Jane Smiley (1)	
5.	**THE BRETHREN**, John Grisham (11)	4
6.	**BACK ROADS**, Tawni O'Dell (1)	
7	**CITY OF GOD**, E. L. Doctorow (7)	9
8.	**DAUGHTER OF FORTUNE**, Isabel Allende (9)	5
9	**PLAY THE MONSTER BLIND**, Lynn Coady (1)	
10.	**LORD OF EMPERORS**, Guy Gavriel Kay (7)	6
Nonfiction		
1.	**THE NATURE OF ECONOMIES**, Jane Jacobs (4)	1
2.	**TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE**, Mitch Albom (16)	4
3.	**FIVE DAYS IN LONDON**, John Lukacs (13)	6
4.	**THE MILLIONAIRE MIND**, Thomas Stanley (2)	3
5.	**'TIS**, Frank McCourt (28)	7
R.	**HOW TO KNOW GOD**, Deepak Chopra (6)	5
7	**THE BODYGUARD'S STORY**, Trevor Rees-Jones (4)	8
8	**A HEARTBREAKING WORK OF STAGGERING GENIUS**, Dave Eggers (5)	2
9.	**RELATIONSHIP RESCUE**, Phillip McGraw (4)	10
10	**THE TIPPING POINT**, Malcolm Gladwell (3)	9

() Weeks on list
Compiled by Brian Bethune

Desert adventure

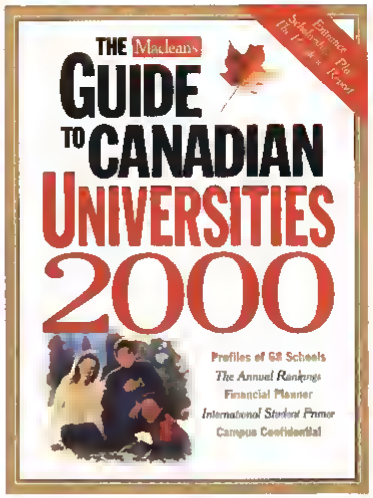
For 40 days in the winter of 1999, three Calgarians travelled by camel across the fabled Empty Quarter, Arabia's great southern desert. Jamie Clarke, who in 1997 climbed Mount Everest on his third attempt, his brother Leigh and Bruce Kirkby, whose *Sand Dance* (McClelland & Stewart) details the trek, were the first to do so in more than 50 years. The journey featured an often surreal combination of old and new Bedouin guides, accustomed to Land Cruisers and cellphones, were reluctant to join so primitive an expedition, and camels tough enough for it are now hard to find. But in the desert, modernity disappeared before 49° C heat, sand that coated even the insides of their eyelids and the scorpion that caused Kirkby a day of agony



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#2929



Allan Fotheringham

When leaders lose touch

There is, in this strange dominion, a drift of thought seeping through the consciousness. Its avatars come from the West, but it is striking a chord through the more populous tracts eastward.

At the base is a growing contempt and disgust with the authorities in power. It's a sense that those in charge of our most cherished institutions have lost touch completely with the Great Unwashed who have placed them there.

It's why Toronto's new get-tough police chief, who sounds and acts as if he's out of Chicago or perhaps New Orleans, has announced he wants his troops in new stark black uniforms like something out of Darth Vader, and thinks surveillance cameras on Yonge Street would be a good idea.



Roy Peterson

The leading candidates for the Dog's Breakfast Party—otherwise known as Canadian Alliance or CRAP—have by luck stumbled on a current scene that absolutely appalls most Canadians of sensible, middle-class temperaments.

Years after the most contemptible crimes in Canadian history, we are accosted daily in newsprint with more gory, glorifying yards of details about Paul Bernardo and of how—incredibly—this sick pervert still controls lawyers and court procedures.

The process of law, available to all of us as it should be, has been turned on its head and the public in despair wonders whether there is anyone who is in charge.

As the pitiful parents of two innocent teenage girls have to go through the agony once again, this jerk somehow gets his name in the headlines once again while actually *appealing* his life sentence for the despicable acts that most all of us don't even want the details of.

Jonathan Swift made his reputation on his suggestion that the solution to starvation in Ireland was for the rich to eat the children of the poor, if they were hungry. The spectacle of Paul Bernardo—and the massive press coverage thereof—is an adequate analogy.

Here comes the luck. Parson Manning, rigid puritan collar in place, has promised that once prime minister he will allow every Canadian voter a referendum on the restitution of capital punishment. It's nonsense, of course, but Paul Bernardo and the confused, discombobulated Canadian legal system, simply give him some credence.

Just adding to the mix, and helping the whiff from the West, is the pleasant news that the vixen Karla Homolka, Bernardo's partner in torturing and sexually assaulting and killing even her own sister, will be eligible for parole next summer after arranging a plea-bargaining deal with the goofy Ontario prosecutors that will cut short her 12-year sentence.

And so we have Stockwell Day, the Jump-for-Jesus new saviour from the Flat Prairie, being reminded by the press that he once said the solution to the problem of thrill-killer Clifford Olson was to release him just once in the recreation yard at his prison at exercise time.

A sentiment, one would agree, that about 82.3 per cent of the Canadian populace would applaud. But that is not the way to civilization. I don't think, however, it lost the Stock any votes.

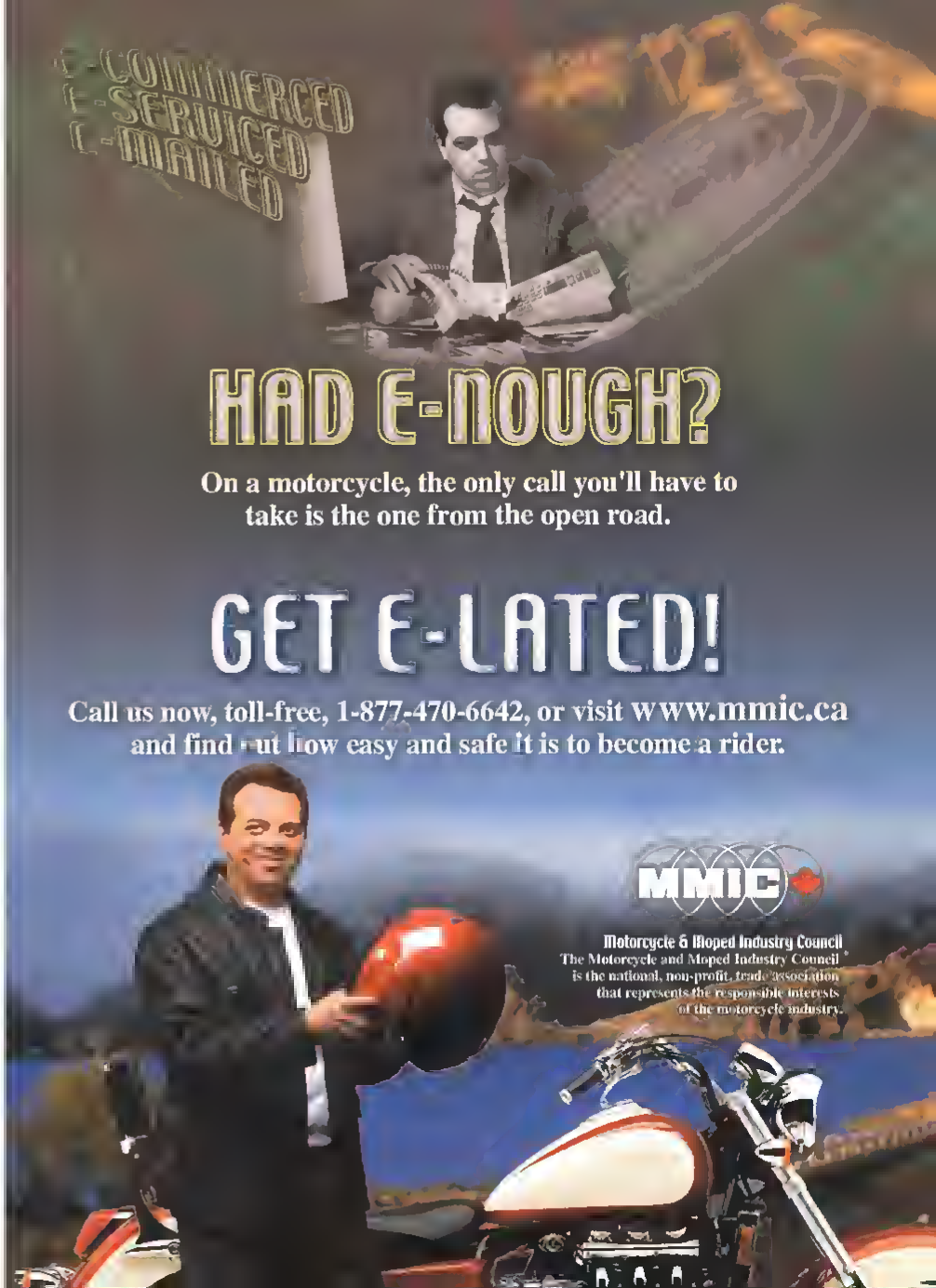
It must be understood we now have in Toronto the Paper Wars—four desperate papers knowing that New York, with two times Toronto's population, is now down to three papers. And so, even the staid and sincere *Globe and Mail*, knowing its onions, tries to match Conrad Black's *National Post* each day in the latest Bernardo outrage.

That being unveiling the incredibly inept police—fighting for jurisdiction between the Toronto guys who wanted to charge the "Scarborough rapist" and the St. Catharines guys who wanted to charge the same pervert with the murders of Leslie Mahaffy and Kristen French.

And now charged in court the incredibly stupid lawyer, Ken Murray—the coppers supposedly having taken apart Bernardo's home piece by piece for two months for evidence, neglected to find the sickening videos of his self-manufactured murders. And the moron Murray kept the videos for his law firm for 16 months before turning them over to the authorities that the Great Unwashed now looks on with despair.

And millionaire farmer Colin Thatcher, who bludgeoned and then shot his ex-wife within the shadow of the Regina legislature where his father once reigned as premier, is found on a British Columbia country-club prison having his favourite horse flown in from Saskatchewan.

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